

THE JOURNAL

day, February 6, 2004

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Sports Win keeps El Cerrito girls atop league hoop standings [A8]**Arts** The beauty of glass showcased in exhibit [C10]

Albany continues to seek a happy median

The city is moving on a plan to restore Buchanan Street medians, but funding for work remains an issue.

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — The City Council has taken a small step to improve landscaping of Buchanan Street's median strips, their sometimes weedy and dry condition the subject of resident complaints.

On Monday, Feb. 2, the council unanimously approved allocating \$5,000 from its discretionary fund toward paying for a cost estimate to do irrigation repair and design for the landscaping on those medians. Residents spoke about the issue during a public comment period, said city clerk Jackie Butler.

New improvements to the median strips between San Pablo Avenue and the Interstate 80 and freeway ramps probably won't happen until after the summer, officials said. And the project could cost the cash-strapped city upwards of \$10,000, said assistant to the administrator Judy Lieberman.

"Albany, like other cities, is going to do as much as we can, as little money as we can," Lieberman said. "We are working with grants and volunteers as much as we can. The Buchanan Street median doesn't have itself to a volunteer project." City officials blame a 1960s irrigation system for the condition of the Buchanan median landscaping, which is composed mainly of dirt and weeds in the summer and fall due to the lack of water.

"Most of it (the irrigation) is broken but not all of it, and that's what we need to assess," Lieberman said.

The city will likely try to get help from the Alameda County Waste Management Authority to make improvements.

The authority provides grants for environmentally friendly landscaping. As a result, city leaders are envisioning low-maintenance, sustainable, "bay



THE MEDIAN STRIPS along Buchanan Street are in dire need of landscaping and other attention, say some residents.

friendly" improvements on the median strips that forego the use of pesticides.

In the meantime, the waste management authority has promised a \$7,500 grant to the city that will be combined with the council's \$5,000 allocation,

to be used to pay for the plan and cost estimate to do the job.

"The city would really like to see the gateway improved and we hope this is the first step towards that," Lieberman said. "We hear people's complaints about what it looks like and we would

really like to make it look nicer, and hopefully in a way that's sustainable."

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

MARK DUFRENE/STAFF

School closures averted

■ Three principals may lose jobs in the latest cost-cutting measures

By Kara J. Shire
STAFF WRITER

PINOLE — Closing West Contra Costa school district elementary schools will not be part of the cost-cutting equation this year, Superintendent Gloria Johnston said Monday night.

The news stunned the crowd of some 400 people, many of whom had come armed with picket signs and prepared

speeches aimed at saving their school from closure.

Officials previously had suggested closing three elementary campuses to save an estimated \$1.2 million. On Monday, they were expected to name the schools targeted for closure.

Instead, Johnston said no elementary school would be shuttered this year, although the proposal could come back in the future.

Two continuation high schools, Gompers and North Campus, still could be merged to

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Racetrack to be integral part of waterfront plan

■ A revised development plan will be submitted by the end of the year and might go before voters

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — Magna Entertainment Corp. will submit a new plan for Golden Gate Fields by the end of the year, and it's certain the racetrack will be a part of it, said MEC vice president Andy Blair, during a public meeting about the waterfront.

"Thoroughbred horse racing and its related activities are and will continue to be the core activity of MEC," Blair said, during

a meeting that drew about 200 people to the Albany Community Center Tuesday night. "MEC will continue to conduct racing at Golden Gate Fields indefinitely, that in addition to horse racing activities in Dixon. I don't know if I can say it any more clearly than that."

Scores of people attending the community workshop said they were in favor of a concept plan created by the Citizens for Eastshore State Park and the Sierra Club, which envisions the waterfront as parkland, with the racetrack gone.

Fewer residents, though nearly as vocal, came out in fa-

See TRACK, Page A9

City backs ballot measures on school parcel tax, bridge tolls

In other actions, it closes used-car lot and accepts a grant for creek restoration

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — The City Council unanimously approved resolutions supporting two local ballot measures. They are Measure J, a West Contra Costa school district parcel tax; Regional Measure 2, a traffic-congestion relief plan that would increase bridge tolls by \$1 on seven Bay Area bridges.

Measure J passes by a two-thirds vote, property owners in the school district would pay 6.8 cents per square foot of their home or business, according to a J fact sheet. It would be \$7.5 million and expire after five years. Senior citizens over 65 would be exempt. The money will be spent on maintaining reduced class sizes; the district's youngest students; adding teaching materials and books; enhancing core subjects, including reading, writing,

math and science; and attracting and retaining qualified teachers, counselors and custodial staff.

Supporters say the measure is needed because of state and local budget cutbacks.

"This is about the children, the children of our district and what's going to happen to them with budget cuts this year," said Councilwoman Janet Abelson.

The Contra Costa Taxpayer's Association opposes the measure, because of concerns that the tax configuration is too complex.

The council also approved a resolution supporting Regional Measure 2, a ballot initiative that will raise more than \$125 million a year for new travel options and increased capacity in the Bay Area's seven state-owned bridge corridors.

"A \$1 increase in toll funds from seven Bay Area bridges will directly benefit toll payers by creating one world-class transit system, with a single-fare card, monthly pass and timely connections along all major corridors," according to a report.

The bridges in question are: Antioch, Benicia-Martinez, Car-

quinez, Richmond-San Rafael, San Francisco-Oakland, San Mateo-Hayward and Dumbarton. The Golden Gate Bridge is excluded.

Among other things, the money would help decrease traffic congestion along Interstate 80, Abelson said.

Car lot closed

The council also shut down a used-car lot at 11940 San Pablo Avenue, after owner Cenk Ozkay was found repairing vehicles at the site, violating conditions of a permit he was given to operate the business.

Ozkay had been repairing vehicles at Trend Motors since August, even producing a coupon advertising the service, according to a city report.

A use permit issued in May 2003 said the site would be limited to used car sales.

The El Cerrito fire department also found multiple violations for operating a repair service garage during August and November inspections.

See COUNCIL, Page A9



Winter market

EL CERRITANS have a year-round farmers market twice a week with ever-changing offerings according to the season. Here, Phil Carter of The Fruit Tree, based in Winters, helps customers at his stand. The El Cerrito farmers market is open every Tuesday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. — it celebrates its 10th anniversary this summer.

GREGORY URQUIAGA/STAFF

Community Folk

■ How NIAD blazed a trail in the art world, with very special artists. Page A9

At the Library

■ Before there was the Internet, there was the Almanac. Page A6

Martin Snapp

■ Cazadero camp builds confidence in young musicians. Page A3

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NEWS BRIEFS

Albany

Kindergarten sign-up deadline is Feb. 25

The Albany Unified School District will register children for admission to kindergarten for fall 2004 on Wednesday, Feb. 25, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave. Starting Feb. 26, children may be registered at Ocean View, Marin or Cornell schools. Also, children in grades 1-5 who currently reside in Albany need to register at this time.

Registering a child at the closest school to home does not guarantee assignment to that school, district officials say. Many factors are considered in student assignment.

Parents need their child's certified birth certificate, baptismal certificate or passport and be prepared to fill out health forms concerning vaccinations, immunizations and childhood diseases. Documentation of the dates of immunizations for polio, DTP, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B and varicella for each child is required. No child can enter kindergarten next fall unless he or she has had these immunizations. No child will be allowed to attend school unless all information is complete, officials say.

This registration is for current Albany residents only. Parents not residing in Albany who are interested in enrolling new students in Albany elementary schools must submit an inter-district permit from their district of residence before May 1 to the district office. Information: 510-558-3765.

Recorders to play to help St. Alban's

The Bay Area Recorder Series will present, as its first event of 2004, a concert to raise money for St. Alban's Episcopal Church, on Sunday, Feb. 29 at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary at the church, 1501 Washington Ave., Albany.

The money will go to help the church's make its parish hall, a popular venue for many early-music groups, handicapped-accessible. The church is currently raising funds to install an elevator, and a bathroom and ramp that are up to standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The sanctuary is handicapped-accessible.

The concert will feature longtime members of the Bay Area recorder community and newcomers, including the Farallon Recorder Quartet (Letitia Berlin, Frances Blaker, Louise Carslake, Hanneke van Proosdij), Frances Feldon, Eileen Hadidian, Judy Linsenberg, David Barnett, Tom Wickley and Sabine Djernaes, as well as visiting artist Dan Laurin.

Tickets are \$15-\$18, or \$5 for children accompanied by an adult. Details: 510-559-4670 or e-mail barecorderseries@mindspring.com.

Waterfront planting event scheduled

The community development department invites the community to help with another planting event on the waterfront on Feb. 7 from 9 a.m. to noon. The event will be held rain or shine, and volunteers are asked to wear work clothes, gloves and sturdy shoes, and bring a favorite digging tool, if they have one, as well as a friend. Snacks will be provided. For details, call 510-528-5754.

El Cerrito

Book club will discuss "The Life of Pi"

The El Cerrito Library book club, Readers Anonymous, will discuss The Life of Pi by Yann Martel, on Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. at the library, 6510 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito.

The harrowing and inspiring tale concerns Pi, a teenager in India whose father is a zookeeper. Deciding to immigrate to Canada, his father sells off most of the zoo animals, electing to bring a few along with the family on their voyage to their new home—but unknown adventures await Pi after the ship capsizes.

Information: 510-526-7512.

Symphony to play at Northminster

The Kensington Symphony with Eric Hansen, guest conductor and Seth Montfort on piano, will play a concert featuring the works of Tchaikovsky, Rossini and others at 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 21, at Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury Ave. Suggested donation: \$10; seniors, \$8. Children free. 510-524-4335.

Philately will get you everywhere

Local stamp club experts will be at the El Cerrito Library on Feb. 7 at 11 a.m. to provide advice (and freebies) to potential collectors of all ages who would like to learn about collecting postage stamps as a hobby. Scouts working on badges and seniors (with or without grandchildren) are especially encouraged to attend. For details, call the library at 510-526-7512. The library is at 6510 Stockton Ave.

West County Winds will play at ECHS

The West County Winds will present classical pieces arranged for band, marches and modern music in its spring concert on Feb. 9 at 8 p.m. in the El Cerrito High School Little Theatre, 540 Ashbury Ave. The city-sponsored Winds is looking for new members. Meetings are held every Monday from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. For details, call band director Spiros Xydas at 707-551-7188.

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Officials investigating high school stabbing

By Karl Fischer

STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — West Contra Costa school officials said Monday they are investigating a stabbing that followed a high school basketball game Friday night but uncovered no new information about what happened.

"So far our internal investigation has conflicting information in it and we're working with the Pinole Police Department to determine the facts," said Paul Ebara, school district spokesman.

Tiffini Reed, 16, remained in stable condition at John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek.



Tiffini Reed

School officials say there is a history of conflict between the victim and suspect.

Reed's lung was punctured by stab wounds during a fight about 9 p.m. as she left Pinole Valley High School.

Both Reed and the 17-year-old girl Pinole police arrested are Richmond residents who attend El Cerrito High School, Pinole police Capt. John Miner said. El

Cerrito played Pinole Valley on Friday.

The suspect also had puncture wounds and was treated at the hospital before being booked into Juvenile Hall in Martinez. The Contra Costa District Attorney's Office did not file charges against the suspect Monday.

Both police and school officials said the girls had a history of violent conflict.

Tiffini's mother said Saturday the district should have done more to protect her daughter, such as moving the suspect to another school.

The suspect's family said Sun-

day she did not insist on fighting. They said Tiffini is a group of girls that their relative and the alterations between them were so severe they asked officials to move Tiffini to other campus.

Police did not release the suspect's name.

Staff writers Kara J. Shultz, Lochner and Claire Boettcher contributed to this article. Karl Fischer at 510-262-2724, kfischer@cctimes.com

ALBANY POLICE REPORTS

Monday, Jan. 26

■ HOME BREAK-IN — During the day, thieves broke into a residence on the 600 block of Masonic Avenue and stole items.

■ STEREO STOLEN — An Albany resident reported that between 9:30 and 10:15 p.m., thieves stole the stereo from his red Volkswagen Jetta that was parked on the 500 block of Key Route Boulevard.

Tuesday, Jan. 27

■ AUTO BREAK-IN — During the night, thieves broke into the window of a blue '98 Honda Civic and stole items.

■ AUTO STOLEN — Thieves stole a tan '83 Toyota Corolla parked on the 600 block of Jackson Street and broke into a red '97 Honda Civic on the 500 block of Jackson Street and stole items from inside.

■ AUTO BREAK-IN — Thieves broke into a white '95 Honda Civic parked on the 1000 block of Santa Fe Avenue and stole items.

■ HOME BREAK-IN — About 10 a.m., a resident on the 700 block of Madison Street reported that when she returned home she heard the sound of a rear window being opened. She went to investigate and observed a man.

Wednesday, Jan. 28

■ DUI — About 2 a.m., officers stopped a black '98 Ford Taurus on the 400 block of San Pablo Avenue for a vehicle code violation. The driver, a 21-year-old Richmond woman,

was arrested for DUI.

■ AUTO BREAK-IN — Thieves broke into a blue Hyundai was parked on the 700 block of Madison Street.

■ OUTSTANDING WARRANT — Officers stopped a subject on a bicycle near Talbot and Brighton avenues for a vehicle code violation. The rider, a 43-year-old El Cerrito man, was found to have an outstanding BART warrant for damaging property in the amount of \$351 and was arrested.

■ DOUBLE ARREST — About 3:30 p.m., officers stopped a black '91 Oldsmobile near San Pablo and Washington avenues for a vehicle code violation. The driver, a 39-year-old Richmond man, was found to have an outstanding Marin County warrant for driving with a suspended license, no proof of insurance and violation of promise to appear in the amount of \$1,000. He was arrested. A 45-year-old Richmond woman with him was found to have an outstanding Alameda County warrant in the amount of \$6,001 and was arrested.

■ AUTO BREAK-IN — During the day, thieves broke into a black '96 Honda Civic parked on the 600 block of Adams Street.

■ DRUG-RELATED CHARGES —

■ OUTSTANDING WARRANT —

About 9:30 p.m., officers stopped a gray '86 Mercedes near Marin and Santa Fe avenues for a vehicle code violation. A Berkeley man, 42, was found to have an outstanding \$489

Berkeley warrant for driving with a suspended license. He was arrested for burglary, possession of stolen property, petty theft and the warrant.

Thursday, Jan. 29

■ SUSPENDED LICENSE — About 11 a.m., officers stopped a Chevrolet pickup near San Pablo and Carlson avenues for a vehicle code violation.

Friday, Jan. 30

■ STORE BREAK-IN —

During the weekend, thieves broke into a repair store on the 700 block of San Pablo Avenue and stole items.

Sunday, Feb. 1

■ INTOXICATED —

About

4 p.m., officers stopped a gray '88 Chevrolet van near San Pablo Avenue and the Gill Tract for a vehicle code violation. A 49-year-old Hercules man, was arrested for driving with a suspended license, cited and released.

■ AUTO BREAK-IN —

During the

day, thieves stole items from a white '91 Toyota in a garage on the 400 block of Evelyn Avenue.

■ CAR THIEF ARRESTED —

About

9:30 a.m., officers stopped a white '96 Nissan on San Pablo Avenue and Adams Street for a vehicle code violation.

The car was reported as stolen from Richmond earlier that day. A 25-year-old Richmond man, was arrested for possession of stolen property, driving without a driver's license, resisting officers and possession of a controlled substance.

Monday, Feb. 2

■ STORE BREAK-IN —

During

the

weekend, thieves broke into a repair store on the 700 block of San Pablo Avenue and stole items.

Summary

During the week of Jan. 20, police towed four cars, responded to three alarms, attended to one lost dog and assisted one person locate his car. Officers responded to disturbances and 130 civil calls. Officers stopped 124 vehicles or issuing 61 citations and 63 warnings. Firefighter/paramedics responded to four medical emergencies. — K.

EL CERRITO POLICE REPORTS

Thursday, Jan. 15

■ VEHICLE THEFT — A silver '98 Honda Accord was stolen from the 1100 block of San Pablo Avenue between Jan. 10 at about 10 a.m. and Jan. 15 at 5 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 16

■ VEHICLE THEFT — At San Pablo Avenue and Wall Avenue a 31-year-old woman was stopped driving a blue '99 Toyota Corolla that had been reported stolen to San Rafael police Jan. 15. She was arrested and discovered to have an outstanding felony warrant from San Francisco. She was taken to the Martinez jail.

Saturday, Jan. 17

■ VEHICLE THEFT — Someone

took a white '96 Chevrolet S10 from the 2100 block of Harper Street between 10 p.m. Jan. 16 and 7 a.m. Jan. 17.

Sunday, Jan. 18

■ VEHICLE THEFT — During a traffic stop at Blake Street and Lexington Avenue at about 3:30 a.m., police discovered that the Honda Accord had been reported stolen to Davis police. The driver also was found to be in possession of a car stereo with its serial number removed. He was arrested and taken to the Martinez jail.

Tuesday, Jan. 20

■ ROBBERY — Several teen-age boys punched a victim and demanded cash but left empty-handed at about 4:45 p.m. on the Ohlone

Wednesday, Jan. 21

■ SCHOOL BURGLARY —

A young man was seen entering El Cerrito High School through an open rear

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Greenway at Potrero Avenue.

■ BURGLARY — Thieves broke into a house under construction on the 1800 block of Arlington Ave. between Jan. 19 and Jan. 20 and took tools valued at about \$2,450. The tools were later found hidden in the bushes next door.

■ BURGLARY — Thieves entered an apartment on the 6400 block of Central Avenue, ransacked it and removed a laptop computer and foreign currency.

■ VEHICLE BURGLARY — Someone broke into a vehicle on the 1000 block of Navelier Avenue between noon and 2:30 p.m. and took a purse.

■ VEHICLE THEFT — A green '93 Honda Accord two-door was reported stolen from Eureka Avenue at El Street between 9 a.m. Jan. 16 and 9 a.m. Jan. 20.

■ VEHICLE RECOVERED — A green '93 Dodge Caravan was recovered from the 1700 block of Eastshore Blvd. between 2:45 p.m. and 6:30 a.m. Jan. 20.

■ VEHICLE THEFT — A grey '91 MPV was reported stolen from the 1700 block of Eastshore Blvd. between 2:45 p.m. and 6:30 a.m. Jan. 20.

■ VEHICLE RECOVERED — '93 Saturn SL four-door was recovered near Bayview and San Pablo around midnight. It had been reported stolen to Emeryville police on Jan. 20.

EDITORIAL

TO REPORT AN ERROR: Call the newsroom at 510-262-2724. The Journal strives for accuracy, but should an error occur, a correction will be published in the next edition.

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Neighbors

NIAD art center grew from dream to reality



CLARA-RAE GENSER
Community Folk

GALLERY

For more information about the National Institute of Arts and Disabilities, call 510-820-0290.



"STRAY, THE DOG," is a watercolor by NIAD artist Rosie Pardo.

CONTRIBUTED

RECENT RECEPTION at NIAD gave me the opportunity once more to visit Elias Katz. It has been years since we worked together on the board of the National Institute of Arts and Disabilities. He is now 86, looking and almost completely blind, but he still attends board meeting and executive board meeting and knows what is going on. After all, it is his baby, his and his wife's, Florence Ludens-

as a clinical psychologist, Florence, an artist and art teacher, were in their early 50s when they decided to pool their talents to start a place to bring art and meaning to the lives of adults with developmental disabilities. Ludens-

is a painter; also worked in artistic fields, such as ceramics and jewelry-making. They say he and Florence worked together for years, before they married in Newark City, she as a teacher and he as a researcher and educator. So now they collaborated to establish "this singular entity which is possible for people with disabilities to do art

and had no models to turn to. "It was a concept."

about 1970 when the Creative Arts Center was founded in Oakland.

had no clear image of what we were doing, but she was about teaching art and I about developmental disabilities and the psychological effects of mental retardation.

He adds, "We found it very viable, very productive and very beneficial for the people who attended."

They received a NEA (National Endowment for the Arts) grant, "which gave us enough money to rent space."

Florence was the first teacher. "We were very excited when we started our first class." Later, the Regional Center of the East Bay, which had been started in 1965 to serve people with developmental disabilities, funded them for training their

clients. "We were able to really launch the program and insure its continuation."

Their group of clients grew from two or three to 30 or 40. "They learned quickly and began to develop styles of their own," he says.

After several years, the Katzes decided to leave the Oakland facility, which continues to grow, and opened similar centers in San Jose and two in San Francisco, using the Oakland model, with no intention of remaining with any of them. They are all working centers still.

In about 1983 Elias and Florence decided to open their fourth center in Richmond. They started NIAD very small, working with the school district. With the help of the Regional Center they grew, and after a very successful fund-raising effort were able to buy the building they are in today.

Sadly, Florence died a few years later, but not before she started an exhibition gallery and a gift shop in the building.

Today NIAD is very much a part of the community, as well as having connections with other arts and community organizations. It has received grants from dozens of foundations and corporations, continue their funding from the Regional Center, from member support and fund-raising drives. It sells the art produced by their clients, sharing the profits with the artists.

Elias was very proud of the fact that the mortgage on the building will be paid off in August. He invites interested people to visit the facility at 551 23rd St. in Richmond.

Reach Clara-Rae Genser at 510-525-4585 or crgenser@aol.com.

Communication is vital and can take many forms



CONNIE LYNCH
Don't Lose Your Mind

AT TIME, I began an answer to a request for information about the four components of superior mental fitness. The most important component, Awareness, was covered. Today we will cover Communication — the most important component of mental fitness.

Communication: what does it mean? Most people usually think of talking. How else are you going to produce your ideas? Making yourself heard is important, but think about the full part of making yourself understood. Just talking is not enough. You must have someone hear you — a listener. Communication is two-directional. It must be shared.

Communication is more important than talking. A careful listening is indeed valuable and the difference between being a called-for activity, and a dangerous mis-

understanding. You were talking to a physician and she wanted to change the dosage of medication. If you misunderstood or didn't listen carefully, you could suffer very serious consequences. Incidentally, don't hear well, be sure the speaker to repeat what was said; it is imperative to know what is being said, and so on.

These days, communication has become, at times, really unpleasant. Our lives are full of many types of communication on television, newspapers, cell phones and computers. Are you constantly bombarded with information being sent, phoned or shown to you? The constant ringing of cell phones and the resulting conversations are most intrusive. Personally, I take a walk to escape the telephone and find it difficult to understand people who spend a pleasant, outdoor experience chatting away on the cellular phone.

Communication, like awareness, also has many components that we often don't consider. How many ways, other than those mentioned above, can you think of to send or receive a message? Have you

ever been on a crowded street, made eye contact with someone, and immediately knew what he was thinking?

Perhaps another person is scowling — you know what that means! Do you remember when your school teacher stood before your unruly class, crossed her arms, and pursed her lips? No doubt about what she was feeling. All of this is communication — and not a word is uttered.

Communication involving eye contact, body language, and other non-verbal techniques, obviously relies strongly on awareness. All of the components of mental fitness must be used simultaneously most of the time. You can now see the relationship between awareness and communication, and how important it is.

Next time we will consider another vital component — Curiosity.

E-mail inquiries for Kensington resident Connie Lynch to conniemw@aol.com. Lynch, Ph.D., is the founder of Mind Works, a mental fitness program designed for older adults and is the author of the book, *Don't Lose Your Mind, Four Components of Superior Mental Fitness*. For information on books and classes, call 510-466-5833.

Music camp inspiration helped many musicians



MARTIN SNAPP
Snapp Shots

BACK IN THE summer of '57, a young music teacher at Berkeley High named Bob Lut and his wife, Beth, were trying to decide where to spend their summer vacation. The only place they could afford on a teacher's salary was a family camp owned by the city of Berkeley on the Russian River.

When they arrived, they took one look at the cathedral-like setting beneath towering redwoods, and said, "This is the place!" They decided on the spot to hold a music camp there.

When they got back to Berkeley, Lut marched into City Hall and laid his idea before the authorities.

"What's a music camp?" they asked.

"Let me have a couple of weeks next summer, and I'll show you," he said.

He called his friends in the San Francisco and Oakland symphonies and said, "Hey, want a free place to take your families camping next summer? All you have to do is teach some music classes."

Thus was born Cazadero Performing Arts Camp — or as the campers call it, "Caz."

Everyone on the staff, from the counselors to the dishwashers, in the kitchen, is a musician.

As soon as the campers arrive, they're given a difficult piece of music and told they'll be performing it in a week.

Naturally, they're sure they can't. And, naturally, by the end of the week they're amazed to discover that they can do it, after all. Result: skyrocketing confidence.

"I was so nervous the first day, I dropped my bow," recalls one of the original campers, violinist Doris Fukawa, concertmaster of the stage production of "The Lion King."

"I was certain they'd send me right home. Instead, they said, 'Don't worry about it, it happens to everyone,' and put me with the first violins."

Besides Fukawa, the first year's campers included Jon Kipp, alto sax player with Stan Kenton; Steve "Doc" Kupka, baritone sax for Tower of Power; Lenny Pickett, leader of the "Saturday Night Live" band; and Phil Lesh, bass player for the Grateful Dead.

It's also included Chris Jarrett, who went on to be a successful property developer, and Bob Heywood, who became a distinguished attorney. They still play music on an amateur basis.

"We want our campers who become professional musicians to have a life outside music, and we want those who don't become professionals to still have a life inside music," says Lut.

The first year's campers included Jon Kipp, alto sax player with Stan Kenton; Steve "Doc" Kupka, baritone sax for Tower of Power; Lenny Pickett, leader of the "Saturday Night Live" band; and Phil Lesh, bass player for the Grateful Dead.

By day, the campers play Bach, Beethoven and Benny Goodman in the most beautiful setting imaginable. By night, they sing songs around the campfire and sleep under the stars. They leave Caz even more in love with music and music-making than they were going in.

If you think your child would enjoy Caz, now's the time to sign up for next summer. Call 510-527-7500, write to Cazadero Performing Arts Camp, P.O. Box 7908, Berkeley, CA 94707, or log on to www.cazadero.org.

Several free campships are reserved for low-income kids. They're subsidized by an online auction that is going on right now. All items are one-of-a-kind, such as a string quartet playing Mozart at your next party. You can view and bid for them on the Caz web site, www.cazpac.org.

It's my sad duty to report that Gina Niemeier, the well-liked waitress at Walker's Pie Shop in Albany, lost her gallant fight against cancer Jan. 26. She was only 48.

I wrote a lot about Gina while she was here to read it, so I won't repeat it now. Suffice it to say that the old cliché was never truer: If more people were like her, this would be a much better world. My deepest sympathy to everyone who loved her.

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or msnapp@cctimes.com.

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THE JOURNAL

"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson

EDITORIAL

Public education is everybody's burden

THE WEST County school district this week gave parents, teachers and students cause for a sigh of relief by backing away from the specter of having to close schools to meet budget shortfalls.

That's relief, not celebration. And the relief is likely to be short-lived because it was made very clear that the decision to spare schools only applied to this year.

Many other services that we should expect public schools to provide are still on the list of proposed cuts in a district facing an estimated \$20 million budget shortfall.

Still not safe from the chopping block are all extra-curricular athletics, counselors, forensics and the district radio station at El Cerrito High, not to mention middle and high school libraries.

Our schools, dependent on state funds, are in trouble and have been for some time. Unfortunately, in West County, it's not a matter of great schools having to cut back and settle for being not so great, to save money. It's a matter of struggling schools sinking even lower.

There are some very fine teachers in our schools, who have sacrificed to save classes, who spend their own money on materials, and who have stuck with the job as the obstacles mount up. They have deferred salary increases — on salaries that barely give them enough to scrape by in this wildly expensive area in which we live.

Meanwhile, our leaders at state and national levels smirk and promise not to raise taxes. Meanwhile, CEOs of major corporations rake in millions of dollars in salaries and perks. Glossy magazines and fawning TV shows celebrate their excesses and those of celebrities famous for being famous.

And meanwhile, our public schools often lack the most basic necessities: a new textbook for every child ... a desk for every child ... minimally comfortable classrooms ... clean bathrooms.

You have to wonder what's wrong with this picture.

It's not just unfair. In a supposedly free country whose public schools ought to be a model for the world, it's a disgrace.

Some relief will be in sight on March 2 if voters pass Measure J, which will help maintain smaller classes for the youngest students, buy textbooks and teaching materials, attract and keep qualified teachers and restore custodial budgets so students can have clean bathrooms to use.

We should embrace Measure J the way drowning sailors clutch pieces of floating driftwood. But it's only a start.

It's time to admit we need to do something more permanent.

Currently public schools in wealthy areas do better because parents there spend money out of their own pockets. But that money goes only to the schools in those areas, while those in less-well-off neighborhoods go begging.

That is not the model for a superior system of public schools, which ought to be the jewel in the crown of any democracy.

The entire community needs to realize that those children in those schools are going to be adults very soon.

It's our duty to see that as many of them as possible are literate adults who know how their country works, from national government on down, who understand history well enough to make rational decisions when they vote, who become trusted, competent, ethical workers and citizens.

That means we have to learn some history ourselves, relearn what public education was supposed to be and then commit to it.

It will mean new taxes, yes. And so that they're not squandered, it also means better oversight of the way the money is spent. And it means that all of us, not just parents of current students, need to become involved in public education.

YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

State Senate

Don Perata: (D-9th District; Albany, Berkeley) State Capitol, Room 4061, Sacramento, CA 95814; 916-445-6577; Fax: 916-327-1997; 1515 Clay St., No. 2202, Oakland, CA 94612; 510-286-1333; Fax: 510-286-3885. E-mail: senator.perata@sen.ca.gov

Tom Torlakson: (D-7th District; El Cerrito, Kensington) 2801 Concord Blvd., Concord CA 94519; 800-859-9900 or State Capitol, Room 2068, Sacramento CA 95814; 916-445-6083, e-mail: senator.torlakson@sen.ca.gov

Assembly

Loni Hancock: (D-14th District; Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Emeryville, Kensington, Richmond, San Pablo, North and West Oakland) State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249, 916-319-2014; Fax: 916-319-2114; 918 Parker St., Ste. A13, Berkeley, CA 94710, 510-540-3660; Fax: 510-540-3655; 712 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, CA 94530; 510-559-1406; Fax: 510-559-1478

County Supervisors

John Gioia: (1st District) 11780 San Pablo Ave., Suite D, El Cerrito, CA 94530; 510-374-3231; Fax: 510-3429. E-mail: dist1@bos.co.contra Costa.ca.us

Keith Carson: (5th District) 1221 Oak St., Ste. 536, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-272-6695; Fax: 510-271-5151. E-mail: kcarson@co.alameda.ca.us

EBMUD

David Richardson: Ward No. 4 (Al-

bany, Berkeley, and Emeryville; part of Oakland; El Cerrito and Kensington. E-mail: oakport@igc.org

East Bay Regional Parks

Jean Sirti: Ward 1 (Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Kensington, part of Pinole, and San Pablo). E-mail: jsirti@ebparks.org

AC Transit

Joe Wallace: Ward 1 (West Contra Costa and Northern Alameda counties). E-mail: jwallace@actransit.org; phone 510-891-7143; fax 510-234-7689.

Steg Sanitary District

Phone 510-524-4668 or see online at www.stegesd.dst.ca.us.

Cities

El Cerrito: City offices, 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-215-4300. E-mail: citycouncil@el-cerrito.ca.us

Albany: City offices, 1000 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-528-5710.

Kensington: Fire Protection District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-527-8395

Police Protection and Community Services District: 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-526-4141

School boards

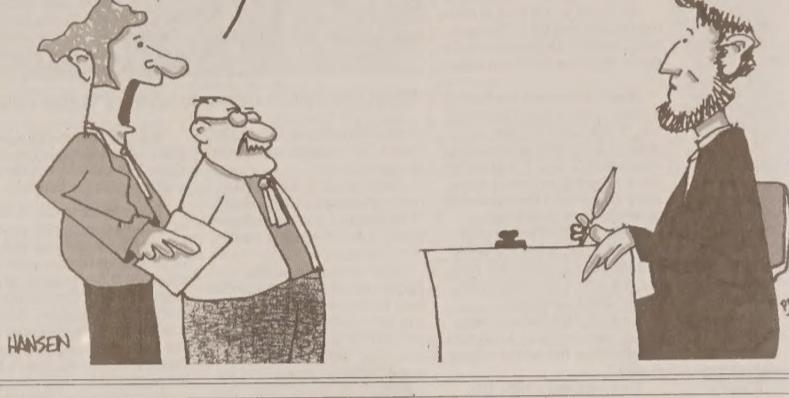
West Contra Costa Unified School District: 510-620-2246

Albany Unified School District: 510-558-3766

JEFF HANSEN • HILLS NEWSPAPERS

IF LINCOLN HAD SPEECHWRITERS

MR. PRESIDENT, WE FEEL THE ADDRESS SHOULD START WITH "EIGHT HALF SCORES AND SEVEN YEARS AGO..."



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

View exploitation

Glenn Davis (letters, Jan. 30) does not pussyfoot around. He has a simple proposal to enhance El Cerrito's property values: Turn our poor little town into ... TIBURON, or else those whose views are blocked by neighbors' trees will litigate!

Davis has some valid points. If there is arbitration, it should have time limits. But then a related compromise is to acknowledge that replacement foliage needs time to grow. Views that were blocked for 20 to 40 years could be restored over a period of, say, 10 to 20 years.

A bit of a view immediately, a filtered view in a few years, and eventually, when feasible, a restored view via more suitable trees. It takes time to work out these issues, but El Cerrito's view-seekers want their money's worth immediately, as per Tiburon's view ordinance.

It will be interesting to see how our City Council, which loves to tell Sacramento and Washington how to run the state or the country, will proceed on this divisive issue. Will they keep their pre-election "environmentalist" promises or will they cave in to the Hillside pressure group?

I fear that money talks and our "progressive" council will open our town to view exploitation with even fewer restrictions than George Bush puts on oil exploitation in Alaska.

Once all annoying trees bite the dust, nothing will stand in the way of looking down on folks, who will look down on folks, etc., until we reach the bottom of the hill. The lowest of the low will get to view and admire the backsides of the hillside homes, wear caps, and doff them when they meet uphill neighbors. Folks will learn their place in the hierarchy of locational property values.

If it's green, eradicate. If it's leafy, annihilate. It is ironic that the most narrow-minded viewpoint now dominates those who strive to achieve the broadest panoramic views.

Peter Loubal

El Cerrito

Bad propositions

No to Propositions 57 and 58.

This dynamic duo is clearly designed to foist current state debt onto future generations. It is a way to bypass our civic and humanitarian obligations.

The National Priorities Project reports that in 2003, millionaires received a new tax cut of more than \$90,000, while the middle 20 percent only received \$200. Also, last year was the second consecutive year of job losses, which hasn't happened since the 1940s, and leaves us with a job gap of more than 7 million.

It is time to establish an equitable tax formula. When we have such "revenue enhancement" in place, then we can talk about keeping within our budget.

We must not pass current debt on to our children.

Joan Bartulovich

El Cerrito

Help our kids

I will be voting yes on Measure J because I want reduced class sizes for kindergarten through third grade maintained. Research has shown that the first few years in a child's educational experience influence the educational success of that child.

If kids don't pick up reading, writing and arithmetic during these early years, chances are that they will struggle with these subjects throughout their education.

Yes, I know Measure J is a tax. And

yes, I know that as a collective group we hate taxes. We work hard for our money, and the Bay Area has a high cost of living. But you know what? I really like smart, engaged kids.

I'd much prefer smart, engaged kids as the next crop of legislators, doctors, airplane mechanics, etc., over those that struggle to add, subtract and read directions. Imagine that as you board your next flight!

The West Contra Costa school district faces several financial challenges as it prepares its budget for 2004-05. All expenses will be considered for the chopping block. A yes vote for Measure J will take class size reduction off that chopping block.

Give our kids the educational foundation they need. Vote yes on Measure J.

Cathy Garza

Kensington

Bush has indeed failed

In his Jan. 16 letter, Morris Cleland wrote that Iraq is better than before the U.S. invasion and, therefore, U.S. intervention in Iraq was not a failure. This incorrectly presumes that the president's choice to invade Iraq addressed the right problem.

On a school exam, a student can write a brilliant, articulate answer but still fail for not reading the question carefully and not answering the problem at hand.

The United States has the talent and resources to solve many problems, such as deposing nasty heads of state of any number of troubled countries. However, a brilliant solution to any one of those problems does not equate to success of U.S. policy overall.

Success of a presidency depends on understanding the context of problems and properly prioritizing those problems, in light of finite time and resources.

The debilitated technological and economic infrastructure that our forces have found in Iraq is evidence that no imminent threat required the United States to invade Iraq when and how we did. Invading Iraq was a distraction from more pressing national security needs, such as disruption of terrorist finance systems, protection of ports, and the hardening of energy and transportation and communication networks.

Real presidential leadership would also address the more difficult but critical problems of American energy consumption and the international explosion of the under-20 demographic in places without the economies or opportunities to support such population pressure, such as the Gaza Strip or South Asia.

Cleland's list of post-war Iraq gains in employment, health care, energy stability, government integrity and schooling also highlights pressing needs in America, where most citizens cannot find Iraq on a map or distinguish Wahhabis from Sunnis or Shiites.

By answering the wrong problem at the wrong time, the president's focus on toppling Saddam Hussein has led to an overall failure of U.S. policy abroad and

domestically.

Another Sept. 11

Recently, MSNBC interviewed He Kissinger about general political problems. Among his responses was a reference to the "victims of Sept. 11."

I am sure he was not thinking of Sept. 11 in Chile, when the CIA, with Kissinger's connivance, overthrew a legal democratic government. That caused many more victims than the Sept. 11 event in New York two years ago. The misery caused by the bloody dictatorship of Pinochet, lasted several decades.

So, there is more than Sept. 11, but Americans remember only the that affected them.

Max All

Reasonable measure

Last spring, when state funding threatened key programs in our schools, our teachers, principals, classified employees and administrators united for salary increases in order to save valuable programs such as class reduction and counselors.

Today, with rising costs and increasing state budget cuts, our children's programs are threatened once again. We know that we cannot count on the local or state government to guarantee resources for our local schools need. Here in West County, we must take care of our schools and children.

That is why I am proud to support Measure J. Measure J generates funds for our local schools. All funds raised by Measure J are directed in our children.

The measure is reasonable: approximately \$75 per household (less than cents per day). It contains a sunset provision after five years and provides an exemption for eligible senior citizens.

Here in West County we have a tradition of uniting for our children's schools. As they face one of the greatest crises, we have the wonderful opportunity to support them by voting yes on Measure J on March 2. For further information on the Measure J campaign, please see www.childrenter.org.

Glen

Price is a trustee of the West Contra Costa school district.

Ponderous irony

It's a ponderous irony that in the midst of the current divisive atmosphere existing in our country over the reasons decided to wage war in Iraq, countries perpetually on the brink of war and ancient disagreements have found restraint and potential peace.

India and Pakistan have fought skirmishes for centuries over age-old issues such as religion and borders (i.e., Kashmir). Now, these two countries have initiated a dialogue to develop a peaceful resolution to legitimate differences while our government decided to abandon diplomacy and rush into a war over fabricated stories with Iraq.

Assuming a quality leader is true and weighs the consequences of military action, it is preferable for a first-world country with a third-world country or a third-world country with a first-rate leader?

Scott B

COMMENTARY

Friends group applauds city support for theater restoration

By Ann Lehman and
Dianne Brenner
FRIENDS OF CERRITO THEATER

The Friends of Cerrito Theater are thrilled that the El Cerrito Redevelopment Agency had Jan. 20 to use its funds to move the historic El Cerrito building. El Cerrito joins a host of other cities that have chosen to provide their residents with small, extraordinary theaters in the free market will not see (Fox Theater, San Jose; Fox Theater, Stockton; Del Mar Theater, Santa Cruz; Fox Theater, Oakland; Roseville Theater, Roseville). The restored theater building and marquee

will put the "there" there in El Cerrito.

El Cerrito is moving into a new phase of redevelopment, as evidenced by recently upgraded public parks, the newly renovated swimming pool, street landscaping in the area, and restored creeks, and we are all delighted to be a part of it.

We feel strongly that this project will continue the economic revitalization of this area that started with the El Cerrito Plaza renovations. Movies and other programs will attract residents of El Cerrito and surrounding areas, who will spend

money in local businesses and restaurants. The following are quotes from citizens who wrote recently to the agency in support of the theater:

■ "The Cerrito Theater could well be the spark that revitalizes the area around it."

■ "It will be a destination point when we are shopping."

■ "This theater project seems like a unique opportunity. To develop both the economic and financial heart of this community, I can't think of a better move."

■ "I would love to be able to walk to the theater to see a movie; I currently spend all my

entertainment money and dinner dollars outside of El Cerrito."

But an equally compelling piece of the economic benefit is the building of community pride. Creating, through a community partnership between the city and its residents, a place where folks can meet and connect is not something easily quantifiable, but a critically important part of the benefit this project generates. The energy and excitement felt by all who attend the open house is immeasurable but was undeniable to anyone who attended. A never-before-seen crowd of 3,000 folks attended to witness the start of something new and vital. From seniors to the very young, with tears of memories of bygone days or excitement about the future, the feelings of connection and community were palpable that day.

Here are a few more comments written to the agency in support of the theater:

■ "What makes a city a de-

sired place to live is its unique identity, and the El Cerrito Theater provides the city with this opportunity."

■ "The theater, as proposed, could become a source of community and civic pride."

■ "El Cerrito needs a place where its citizens can meet and mingle."

■ "The Cerrito Theater represents a golden opportunity in El Cerrito not only to actively revitalize a potential treasure, but also to utilize one of its foremost landmarks and make a tremendous asset to the East Bay."

More than 100 Friends of the Cerrito Theater, from our membership of 900, came together on a cold and rainy night last December to brainstorm ideas for helping the city with this project.

The 11-member Friends of the Cerrito Theater steering committee, made up of El Cerrito business people, Economic Development Board members, fund-raisers, journalists, movie

buffs, historical-building specialists, nonprofit consultants, and volunteers, has joined together to begin the fund-raising and community building effort.

Our mission is "to develop support for restoring and preserving the historic art deco character of the Cerrito Theater, to build community and enhance the cultural life of the surrounding area."

If you wish to join with us in these efforts, see our Web site www.cerritothearter.org. You can also reach us at Friends of Cerrito Theater, 3020 El Cerrito Plaza, #402, El Cerrito, CA 94530, info@cerritothearter.org, or call 510-527-5724.

Ann Lehman & Dianne Brenner are co-chairwomen of the Friends of the Cerrito Theater.

CERRITO HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

GRANTS: Seniors are reminded to have their counselors by March 2 for Cal Grant GPA verification, which will mail after it is signed by the counselor. The Cal Grant is not complete without also filling out the FAFSA. FAFSAs can be completed online at www.fafsa.ed.gov or on paper available in the School to Student office (room 110).

GRAD NIGHT: The next Grad Night meeting is scheduled for Feb. 11. The committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. in general meeting at 7:15 p.m. The date that went out on the weekly bulletins was incorrect.

CASINO NIGHT: Volunteers are needed to help with solicitations for the Casino Night 2004 annual fundraiser on March 20. Volunteers would reinforce the present team in going around to businesses and professional acquaintances asking for donations to the event. These may be gift certificates, items of merchandise, works of art, or monetary gifts. E-mail Solicitations Char Allen Reaves at a.reaves@comcast.net to find out how to help. (One of the goals is to create a copy center for the teachers.)

CRAB FEED: The ECHS Grad Night Committee will hold a crab-feed fund-

raiser on Saturday, Feb. 28 with no-host cocktails starting at 6:30 p.m., and dinner at 7 p.m. in the Kensington Youth Hall. The cost is \$35 per person, and includes entertainment and door prizes.

For ticket information contact Vicki Berndt at vberndt@comcast.net or 510-525-0644.

ECHS AT YOSHIS: The ECHS jazz groups will play at Yoshi's Jazz Club in Jack London Square on Monday, Feb. 9. Tickets are \$10 each and are available through the Music Department.

— ECHS e-tree

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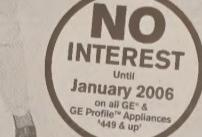


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World Almanac fat with useful, trivial

Quote of the week:
"If I were asked to name the abiding concern of my baby boom generation, as we enter or move toward our second half-century ... it would probably be a quest for the meaning of life, and the hope, and faith, that one exists."

— Joyce Maynard, "The World Almanac and Book of Facts 2004"



JULIE WINKELSTEIN
At the Library

primary and caucus dates and places are listed.

Next, there is another special section, called "The Baby Boom Generation." It includes two essays about Baby Boomers — one by Wendy Wasserstein and the other by Joyce Maynard — as well as a timeline which is broken down into three categories: Top Stories, Firsts & Trends, and Arts & Sports.

Since this is just to page 14 — out of 1000 pages — I'm not going to go through the entire book. But to give you an idea of other topics covered, I'll describe a few. There's health — which includes descriptions of diseases and conditions, food label information, the nutritive value of various foods, and where to get help. Then there's a section called disasters, which has information about nuclear accidents, oil spills, explosions, fires and more.

There's also world history; astronomy — includes sun and moon rise and set times for 2004; mileage charts — Portland to Des Moines is 2,505 miles; and all sorts of statistical information — in a 12-month period ending in August 2002, Nabisco Oreos had \$524,557,312 in sales.

To find out more about this book I went to the World Al-

manac Web site (www.worldalmanac.com), where I found a brief description of its history. According to the site, the first edition was published in 1868 by the New York World newspaper and it has since become the "best-selling U.S. reference book of all time, with more than 80 million copies sold since it was first published." It was distributed to GIs all over the world between 1944 and 1946, and apparently Oval Office photographs of John F. Kennedy and Bill Clinton show a copy of the "World Almanac" on the desk.

And, in case you are considering being a contestant on Jeopardy, it is regularly cited as a source for the show.

READER REVIEW: This week's book review is from Sophie and the book is Carolyn Mackler's "The Earth, My Butt and Other Big Round Things." Sophie says this book is about "Virginia Shreves, a little larger-than-life average girl whose family has its ups and downs. She still manages to show life can be good to you." Sophie recommends this book because "it's witty and shows you don't have to be skinny to have a life."

Reach librarian Julie Winkelstein at jwinkelstein@aclibrary.org or at the Albany Library.

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

The Albany Library's next Second Wednesday event is on Feb. 11, from 7 to 9 p.m. Free; in the Edith Stone Room.

The Albany Library and the Alameda County Bar Association offer free legal assistance at the library in the "Lawyer in the Library" program on the first Tuesday evening of each month. To schedule a 15-minute consultation with an attorney, call the library's Reference Desk at 510-526-3720, ext. 5. Advance registration is required. The next dates are March 2, April 6, May 4 and June 1.

The Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., is a branch of the Alameda County Library. Information: 510-526-3720, ext. 20.

Join local stamp-club ex-

perts at the El Cerrito Library's Stamp Saturday, Feb. 7 at 11 a.m. The experts will provide advice — and freebies. Everyone from age 6 to 66 and older interested in learning about collecting postage stamps as a hobby is invited.

You can learn the basics of the Internet at the El Cerrito Library's beginning Internet workshops. Practice computer mouse skills, set up e-mail, search the Web, locate library materials in the online catalog, and find the information you need in the library's databases. The workshops are held on alternating Saturday mornings from 10 to 11 a.m.

The El Cerrito Library is at 6510 Stockton Ave. For details, call 510-526-7512.

The Kensington Library celebrates the creator of The Cat in the Hat and other beloved characters at a Dr. Seuss Birthday Party presented by the Friends of the Kensington Library. The Seuss tribute will feature games, food, prizes and a special donation along with a meal of "Green Eggs & Ham," at the Kensington Community Center behind the library parking lot, Saturday, Feb. 21, at 11 a.m. Please note: Tickets are required and will be available on Feb. 17.

Also at Kensington: Family Storytimes for all ages are on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. (except when special programs are scheduled). The Kensington Library is at 61 Arlington Ave., Kensington, CA 94707-1099. Phone: 510-524-3043.

(for 8th-grade families), 7 p.m., AHS Little Theater

Scrip: Dorothy Brown at 510-524-3123 or e-mail: dorothymc@yahoo.com

Cornell Elementary School

Get announcements by e-mail. Contact Barbara Grady-Ayer at gradyayer@aol.com

Scrip: Mark Priven at 510-528-2082 or e-mail: privwest@pacbell.net

Marin Elementary School

Get announcements by e-mail. Kym Sterner at kymsterner@earthlink.net

Feb. 26, PTA Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Marin

Scrip: Call Helene Class at 510-524-4902 or e-mail: h.class@att.net

Ocean View Elementary

Feb. 26, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., Ocean View Library

AUSD Board of Education

Feb. 10, Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., AUSD Multi-Purpose Room

AUSD Calendar

Feb. 16-20, mid-winter break (no school)

Items? Call Kay Weinstein at 510-525-0363 or e-mail: kstein@yahoo.com

■ ■ ■

ALBANY PTA NEWS

Albany High School

Get announcements by e-mail. Linda Okamoto at ltopm@earthlink.net

Scrip Orders: call Norm Rossman at 510-558-0418, e-mail: norm@norm-skl.com

Albany Middle School

Get announcements by e-mail. Frances Santiago at santiagofrances@hotmail.com

Feb. 9, Site Council Meeting, 6 p.m., Asst. Prin. Conf. Room

Feb. 11, AHS Chapter of Albany Music Fund Meeting, 7 p.m., AHS Library Feb. 26, Middie School Night at AHS

(for 8th-grade families), 7 p.m., AHS Little Theater

Scrip: Dorothy Brown at 510-524-3123 or e-mail: dorothymc@yahoo.com

Cornell Elementary School

Get announcements by e-mail. Contact Barbara Grady-Ayer at gradyayer@aol.com

Scrip: Mark Priven at 510-528-2082 or e-mail: privwest@pacbell.net

Marin Elementary School

Get announcements by e-mail. Kym Sterner at kymsterner@earthlink.net

Feb. 26, PTA Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Marin

■ ■ ■

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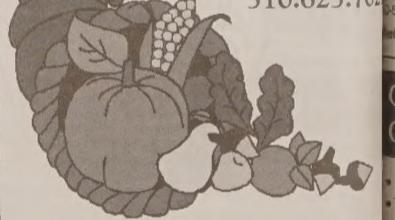
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Program: 8:00 P.M.

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BFHP's anniversary will be honored in conjunction with the first presentation of the Humanitarian Award, which recognizes community members who assist in carrying out the agency's mission to ease and end homelessness in Berkeley.

2004 Humanitarian Award

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City of Berkeley Police Department

Hosted by Barbara Rodgers

CBS 5 Eyewitness News Anchor & Bay Sunday Host

Kid Stuff

BARNES & NOBLE, OAKLAND — "Kids Story Times," ongoing. Stories will be read in the Children's Book Area. The Friday reading is for preschoolers.

Free. Second Friday, 11 a.m.; Third Saturday, 1 p.m.; Second Sunday, 2 p.m. 98 Broadway, Jack London Square, Oakland. 510-272-0120.

CHABOT SPACE AND SCIENCE CENTER — A state-of-the-art facility unifying all science education activities around astronomy.

SPECIAL EVENTS — "Escape from the Red Planet," through Feb. 29. Become the crew of a doomed Mars landing in this one-hour simulated space mission. The mission is to get the shuttle working again and into orbit before it is hit by the worst dust storm ever recorded on Mars. Participants will become critical members of a team working to complete the mission using math, science, teamwork, problem-solving, responsible decision-making and communication skills. Limited space so participants are admitted on a first-come basis. Not for children under age 6; children ages 6 to 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Saturday, 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.; Sunday, 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. \$10 general, \$5 children ages 6 to 12. 510-336-7311.

"Rovers on Mars," Feb. 14, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This Family Science Workshop is for families with children ages 4 to 8. Come learn about the recent landings of the two Mars Exploration Rovers. Operate a remote controlled Mars Rover, build a candy rover and visit the "Mars Encounter" exhibit for the latest updates on the planet. Reservations required. In the Biology Lab. \$20 general; \$10 youths. 510-336-7311.

"Rosie Rosetta Rendezvous," Feb. 29, 10:30 a.m. to noon. This Family Science Workshop is for families with children ages 8 and up. Rosetta is a European Space Agency mission de-

signed to rendezvous with the comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko in 2014 and perform remote sensing investigations. It will carry two probes to land on the comet's surface. Come learn about the mission, see a short slide show on comets and make your own comet in the classroom. Advance registration required. In the Biology Lab. \$10 to \$20 general; \$10 youths. 510-336-7311.

Center Admission: \$11 general; \$8 seniors and youths ages 4 to 12; free children ages 3 and under. **Planetary or Megadome Theater:** \$6 general; \$5 seniors and youths ages 4 to 12; free children ages 3 and under. **Friday, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.; Feb. 16, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7300 or www.chabotspace.org.

CHILDREN'S FAIRYLAND USA — A fairy tale theme park featuring more than 30 colorful fantasy sets. Designed especially for children age 10 and under, there are gentle rides, a train, the "Peter Rabbit Village," puppet shows, story-telling and lots of slides and animals.

PUPPET SHOWS — All shows are at the Open Storybook Theatre. They perform Friday through Sunday, 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Free with regular Fairyland admission.

"Rupunzel," closing Feb. 14. A young girl is locked in a tower by a witch for 21 years for destroying radishes. Her long hair grows down to the ground from the tower window and the Witch uses this to climb up into the tower to speak with Rapunzel, who she has grown to love as her own child. A Prince sees Rapunzel one day and climbs up the tower to take her away.

The Witch finds them, sees they are in love, and goes away leaving them the tower for a wedding present.

SPECIAL EVENTS — Owen Baker Flynn, Feb. 7 and Feb. 8, 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. An "Act in a Box" with

juggling, fire eating and other surprises.

"Insect Songs," Feb. 14 and Feb. 15, 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sandy and Steve will sing songs that encourage living in harmony with nature.

\$6 general includes unlimited rides, special shows; guest entertainers and puppet shows; free children under age 1, \$2 for a Magic Key. No adult admitted without a child and no child admitted without an adult. Friday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., weather permitting. 699 Bellevue Ave., Oakland. 510-452-2259 or www.fairyland.org.

HABITAT CHILDREN'S MUSEUM — A museum especially for children age 7 and younger. Highlights include "WaterWorks," an area with some unusual water toys, an Infant Tree for babies, a garden especially for toddlers, a child-scale grocery store and cafe, and a costume shop and stage for junior thespians. The museum also features a toy lending library.

\$5 general; \$6 children ages 7 and under, free children under 12 months. Monday and Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Tuesday and Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 2065 Kirtledge St., Berkeley. 510-647-1111 or www.habitat.org.

HALL OF HEALTH — EXHIBITS — "This Is Your Heart!" ongoing. An interactive exhibit on heart health, "Good Nutrition," ongoing. This exhibit includes models for making balanced meals and an exercise for calculating how calories are burned.

"Draw Your Own Inside," ongoing. Human-shaped chalkboards and models with removable organs allow visitors to explore the inside of their bodies.

"Your Cellular Self and Cancer Prevention," ongoing. An exhibit on understanding how cells become cancerous and how to detect and prevent cancer.

Suggested \$3 donation; free children under 3. Thursday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-1564 or www.hallofhealth.org.

JUNIOR CENTER OF ART AND SCIENCE — A center dedicated to encouraging children's active wonder

and creative response through artistic and scientific exploration of their natural urban environment. The center's classes, workshops, exhibits and events integrate art and science.

EXHIBITS — Three educational exhibits are mounted in the "Children's Gallery" each year. A docent-led tour, demonstrations, hands-on activities and art projects are available to school groups throughout the year. "African American Inventors," through April 6. An exhibit that highlights the selection of contributions that African American inventors and scientists have made to American society. Historical and contemporary inventors will be represented.

Free, programs and special exhibits have a fee. Through May: Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 558 Bellevue Ave., Oakland. 510-839-5777 or www.juniorcenter.org.

LAWRENCE HALL OF SCIENCE — EXHIBITS — "Soul of Science," through Feb. 29. An exhibit that explores the connection between the musical, artistic and scientific expertise of some of the Bay Area's prominent innovators.

SPECIAL EVENT — "Meet Sprout the Police Dog," Feb. 7 and Feb. 8. The patrol dog will strut her stuff and prove her ability to find dangerous materials. Saturday, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.

"Dominos and Drums: The Math of Soul," Feb. 14, noon to 2 p.m. Learn how games and rhythm are related to math with musician Edwin Anderson. \$8.50 general; \$6.50 seniors, students, disabled, and youths ages 5 to 18; \$4.50 children ages 3 to 4; free children ages 2 and younger. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Centennial Drive, UC Berkeley. 510-642-5132 or www.lhs.berkeley.edu.

MUSEUM OF CHILDREN'S ART — A museum of art for and by children, with activities for children to participate in making their own art.

EXHIBITS — "See Us," through Feb. 27. An exhibit of works including ceramics, wood sculptures, collages, prints and paintings, by blind or visually impaired children and young adults.

Reception, Feb. 19, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. "Then and Now," open-ended. An ex-

hibit of the work of children's book illustrators. The exhibit includes current works from the artists and works from the artists' childhoods.

FAMILY EXTRAVAGANZA — Special weekend workshops for the entire family.

"Sunday Workshops with Illustrators," Sundays, 1 p.m. See the artwork and meet the artists who create children's book illustrations. Free.

Free gallery admission. Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 558 Ninth St., Oakland. 510-465-8770 or www.mocha.org.

OAKLAND ZOO — The zoo includes a Children's Petting Zoo, the Skyrider, a miniature train, a carousel, picnic grounds and a gift shop as well as the animals in site-specific exhibits, which allow them to roam freely. Included are "The African Savanna," with its two huge mixed-animal aviaries and 11 African Savanna exhibits; the Mahala Pa Tembo (Place of the Elephant), with African lions, giraffes, chimpanzees and more than 330 other animals from around the world; "Simba Pori," Swahili for "Lion Country," a spacious 1.5-acre habitat offering both a savanna and woodland setting for African lions; "Footprints from the Past," an anthropology exhibit showcasing four million years of human evolution and an actual "footpath" of the first hominids to emerge from the African savanna; "Sun Bear Exhibit," a state-of-the-art space the zoo has developed for its two sun bears; and Siamang Island, a state-of-the-art, barrier-free area that emulates the gibbons' native tropical rain forest habitat.

EXHIBIT — "Mountain Lions!" ongoing. An exhibit designed to educate people about the mountain lion, its habitat, physiology, and history in California, and the myths that surround these mammals. In addition there is a film titled "Cougar: Elusive Predator" by the Discovery Channel in the Children's Theater. At the Education Center. Open daily during zoo hours. Free with regular zoo admission.

SPECIAL EVENTS — "Critter Crafts," Feb. 8 through Feb. 22. A three-class series of animal art projects for children ages 3 to 5 and their parents.

Learn about a different animal each week and take home a corresponding

craft. Pre-registration required, day, 10:30 a.m. to noon. \$9.95, ext. 142.

Animal Amore Valentine's Day — Feb. 14, 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m. Special walking tours will feature steamy facts about animals and mating habits, gestation and care of young. Not included for children under age 12. Regular zoo admission fees apply.

\$8.50 general; \$6 seniors and ages 2 to 14; free children 2 and younger. \$4 parking fee. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Knowland Park, 9771 Park Road, exit off Interstate Highway 80, Oakland. 510-632-9525 or www.zoo.org.

TILDEN REGIONAL PARK AREA — "Kids Garden Card," 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Build a card house for the winter season required. \$5.10-525-2200.

"Botanic Garden Foray," Feb. 15, 10 a.m. to noon. Search for sileneous other early bloomers in the plant oasis.

"Valentine's Day Card Workshop," Feb. 15, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Make a card or design your own about the cultural history of Valentine's Day. \$5 to \$7.

"Shushi for the More Adventures," Feb. 15, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Learn about the meals of home with a skeleton. \$4.

"Early Bloomers," Feb. 15, 12 p.m. Admire the first blooming milkmaids and learn their natural history.

REGIONAL PARKS BOTANIC GARDENS — Guided docent tours of gardens. Call ahead for times. Firm tour is on for the day.

For ages 6 and older. Children to 10 must be accompanied.

Registration required. \$10. \$35 to \$39 general; \$30 to \$32 seniors; \$20 to \$22 children 10 and under.

"Who Eats Who? Owl Pellet Party," Feb. 15, 10 a.m. to noon. Learn about the meals of home with a skeleton. \$4.

"Early Bloomers," Feb. 15, 12 p.m. Admire the first blooming milkmaids and learn their natural history.

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Calendar

FROM PAGE A7

— Interfaith Couples Group: Thursdays, 7:15-9:15 p.m. at Jewish Family & Children's Services of the East Bay in Berkeley. Call Cathy Diamond, MFT at 510-704-7480 ext. 225.

— Social Skills and Anger Management for Boys: A special group for 7-9 year old boys expressing anger and other feelings inappropriately, or are having difficulty making and keeping friends. Pre-registration required. Mondays, 4-5:15 p.m. at Jewish Family & Children's Services of the East Bay in Berkeley. Fee: \$40/session. Sliding scale and medical accepted. Call David Edelson, MA, MFT at 510-704-7480 ext. 267.

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Bereavement Support Group meets

Thursdays, 3-4:30 p.m. at Jewish Family and Children's Services in Walnut Creek. Topics include dealing with loneliness, isolation, anger and other unexpected emotions; changing family dynamics; and re-establishing connections with your community. Receive support in a warm, Jewish context. No charge (donations accepted). Pre-registration required. Call Marti Kunik LCSW at 925-2000 ext. 740. This group is jointly sponsored by Sinai Memorial Chapel and Jewish Family and Children's Services of the East Bay.

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First Unitarian Church of Oakland

\$45, \$32, \$21; children and students with I.D. \$10.

Wednesday, February 18, 2004 | 8:00pm

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley

510.841.2800 | www.berkeleysymphony.org

Volunteers

University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley seeks volunteers.

Opportunities include becoming a docent and learning to lead garden tours, growing plants for plant sale as a propagator, working in the Garden Shop or entrance Kiosk, assisting with horticultural or curatorial tasks, and helping with membership, special events and office support. For more information, call Candice Schott, at 510-643-1924 or e-mail at cscott@uclink4.berkeley.edu.

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Wednesday, February 18, 2004 | 8:00pm

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events

PAGE 1

\$236,900.

The surprise announcement by audience members to a thunderous applause, Johnston warned that the estimated \$20 million budget shortfall had not gone away. "We are still facing the most budget crisis that I have seen in my 30-plus years (in education)," she said.

"While we are not looking at elementary schools in the coming year, there will be drastic cuts to our school

Proposals include the elimination of all extra-curricular athletics, forensics and district radio station at El Cerrito High, as well as the closure of middle and high school

West Contra Costa's budget shortfall can be traced, in large part, to increased employee health benefit costs, a projected decline in student enrollment and the state's uncertain economy, district officials said.

Still, the budget picture remains fuzzy.

District figures show the projected deficit could drop to \$12.4 million if Measure J, \$7.5 million a year West Contra Costa school district parcel tax, and Proposi-

rock of the school. You can't take that away."

Madera parent Laura Soble agreed, and said it would be a mistake to ask a school in the midst of major construction to share a principal.

"Living in a school that's going through construction is extremely challenging," Soble said. "There are a lot of safety issues. There is heavy equipment going in and out and very little playground space for children."

"They should be making cuts away from the classroom and away from direct service. This is an unthoughtful way to make cuts."

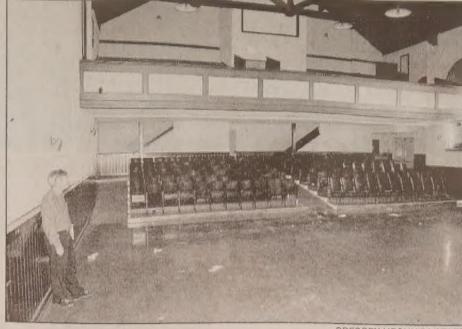
Johnston said the district has few options.

"Please know it is heart-breaking for us to do this," she said. "I'm presenting a worst-case scenario. It is not what any of us want."

If both measures fail, the deficit could grow to \$23.4 million, according to district figures.

Parents who had lobbied for weeks to convince school board members not to close their elementary schools said their win Monday night was rewarding, but tenuous.

The victory is more time," said Cathy Swift, PTA president at Olinda Elementary School, one of three schools named on the fi-



WILLIAM SAVIDGE, an engineering officer, stands last September in the Harding Elementary auditorium, closed since the start of reconstruction at the El Cerrito school. Harding may have to share principals with another school under a cost-cutting proposal.

GREGORY URQUJAGA/STAFF

PHOTO BY GREGORY URQUJAGA

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Real Estate & Home

Rising supplement to The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Montclarion, The Piedmonter

Friday, February 6, 2004

Section B

Is this a resurrection or a rescue mission?

Berkeley buyer sets out to restore a classic French provincial home in the Piedmont District.

Sheila Tiller recently retired as CEO of a Bay Area medical technology firm, and in the fall of 2002 she purchased a lovely home in the heart of Berkeley's Claremont district. She had some changes had to be made but it was difficult to know where to begin.

More windows to let in more light? Add a new master bathroom? The aesthetic consistency of the original French provincial house was basically because over the years, it had occupied by many different and/or tenants.

The floor plan was choppy and she did not feel whole — so her goal was to pull the house into "one piece." Initially, she was overwhelmed with the task of getting settled: all her boxes just hoping to find the basics such as bath and her can opener!

After occupying the house for a month, she came to the conclusion that she had spent a lot of money buying the house and that the bones of the house deserved a focused approach. She began her search for a good architect.

and in *Architectural Trends* magazine, she read about Dan Phipps, an architect who had worked on several Bay Area projects.

When they met, Andrea found Dan to be tremendously talented and he understood the vision that she had in mind for the house. She hired him on the spot — and Phase One of her three-phase project began in earnest in the fall of 2003.

The architect was full of great ideas such as opening up more space in the living room and creating a new dining room on the main floor of the house, followed by designing and building a new master bedroom including the addition of a master bath upstairs. Another important design change was that of re-routing the main entrance to the house.

The original address was on Tunnel Road, but somewhere along the way, one of the owners had created a second entrance from the back of the property and Andrea liked the idea of the more secluded entrance. So, she and the architect worked out a design for a path through the rear garden that leads to the main front entrance of the house.

Eventually, she plans to build a sound wall that will shield the house even more from the Tunnel Road traffic noise.) Since Andrea admits she was "budgetarily challenged," her project became one of Dan's smaller ones.



JUDITH GLASS & SHEILA SABINE

House Talk

Judith Glass was recently privileged to have a tour of the Phase One work that is in progress under the watchful eye of local super-builder McCutcheon Construction, and she was amazed and impressed by Andrea's complete immersion and total involvement in the project.

Everywhere throughout the house, there are books and magazines that are Andrea's constant companions as she continues making design decisions about the future of the house.

She has decided to create more color consistency — the future color scheme will be based on hues of warm Tuscan gold. All of the door knobs will be the same gold French finish, the lighting fixtures will all be of a similar design, the new bath will be entirely marble, and other fancy touches will be added here and there. Andrea believes that "fancy touches" have to do with the design of the object, not necessarily the materials.

See GLASS=SABINE, Page B2

Real Estate Spotlight:

Breathtaking views from Oakland home



THE DISTINGUISHED THREE-YEAR-OLD HOME at 13494 Campus Drive in the Oakland hills designed by Phillip Perkins embodies grand flowing spaces, an exquisite open floor plan, quality craftsmanship and magnificent canyon views.

Warm and inviting, this spacious home offers separation of space or wings built around a central courtyard. Beautiful archways separate the grand living room with its soaring ceilings, limestone floors and elegant alcoves from graceful walkways and private courtyard. The formal dining room opens to a spacious terrace. The front wing also includes a handsome library and full bath. The rear wing opens to a fabulous kitchen with large island, Wolf range and breakfast area. The family room features a private terrace with canyon views, fireplace and access to the central courtyard.

The upper level offers a dramatic open walkway overlooking the main floor. The luxurious master retreat offers a fireplace, private terrace, and luxurious master bath and all have breathtaking canyon views. A second bedroom suite with private bath, and two additional bedrooms and a bath, complete the upstairs. Three-car garage with interior access.

Price: \$1,695,000.

Listing agent: Sherry Benninger, The Grubb Co., 510-339-0404, Ext. 240, www.sherrybenninger.com includes a photo tour.

through a hypothetical situation.

Say, for example, a house is listed to sell for \$300,000 but the offer is for \$250,000. The client could ask the agent how they would effectively counter, she said.

During the interview process, clients need to be sure their goals are the same as those of the agent, said Michele Lancaster, a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Preferred. If a potential buyer wants to find a house within the next two weeks, for example, he or she needs to make sure their sales person will share that urgency.

What type of service the agent offers should also be considered. If Alan Cole's callers don't immediately reach him, they get his cell phone voice mail, which states he will get back to them within 10 minutes. Unless he's going to a special event, that's the time frame he sticks by, said Cole, a Realtor with Kyle Carter Real Estate.

When a prospective client interviews Cole, he doesn't immediately launch into a sales pitch, instead

See FIND, Page B2

guide to
finding a
real estate
agent

BY JENNIFER PLOTNICK

THE BAKERFIELD, CALIFORNIA
Billboards, business cards, visit
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Real estate agents use many tactics and methods to gain new clients. But how does a potential home buyer or seller narrow down the choices without drawing blindly out of a hat?

Interviewing several agents is a start.

"Treat it like an interview for a job," said Sheila Henderson, a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Preferred Realtors. During the presentation, an agent will likely give

an estimated value of the house as well as references from satisfied clients, Henderson said.

Not only should the person contact the references, they also should ask agents how they plan to get the job done. Will the agent be accessible to the client during hours that work for both? Potential clients who wish to sell their house can also ask agents to come to their house and deliver a presentation, said Theresa Olson, sales manager at KW Associates, Realtors. During the presentation, an agent will likely give

through a hypothetical situation.

Say, for example, a house is listed to sell for \$300,000 but the offer is for \$250,000. The client could ask the agent how they would effectively counter, she said.

During the interview process, clients need to be sure their goals are the same as those of the agent, said Michele Lancaster, a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Preferred. If a potential buyer wants to find a house within the next two weeks, for example, he or she needs to make sure their sales person will share that urgency.

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Real Estate Focus:**Enchanting Victorian-style home in Berkeley**

JUST A FEW BLOCKS FROM THE GOURMET GHETTO ON SHATTUCK AVENUE is a sweet Victorian-style home that was built in 1907. Unlike some of the grander Victorians, this home has a warm, very family-friendly feel, as well as the elegance associated with this style.

At the front, there is a stunning, almost circular living room with four large windows full of light, a fireplace and a handsome mantel. The living room opens to a gracious formal dining room with a built-in leaded glass china hutch, ceiling and window moldings, crystal chandelier, and a lovely view of the garden. The beautiful and unique kitchen has huge windows and a low cabinets, as well as a functioning 1924 stove. Adjacent is a solarium/utility room with a tile floor and a hidden laundry area. Through the solarium you can see a very private, large backyard with a birch grove, decks, walks, and a hot tub.

Up the stairs are three large bedrooms with lots of character, as well as large closets. One bedroom, above the living room, has the same almost-circular lines as the living room, and also has a sizable alcove — a perfect reading room. Another bedroom has a cozy sleeping nook, skylight, and a walk-in closet. There is one bathroom upstairs with a clawfoot tub.

Price: \$499,000.

Agent: Phyllis Hewett, Marvin Gardens, Kensington, 510-524-0800.

Banking on your brokerage account

Conventional wisdom tells you that if you want to save money, put it in the bank. And savings accounts are a long-established way to protect your hard-earned cash. But while your local bank may be the first place you think about depositing your money, you may be surprised to learn about the many options available to you at other financial services companies.

Brokerage firms are commonly thought of as simply a place to buy and sell stocks, but in reality they offer a good deal more. If you have become accustomed to receiving certain products and services from your bank, it is worth noting that some of these same products and services can be accessed through other financial institutions, such as a brokerage firm.

Consequently, if you find that you have a substantial amount of money in a traditional savings account, you may want to invest those dollars in a different type of account that will allow you to consolidate your holdings. Let us take a look at some of the account features with which you are probably

most familiar and see what a brokerage firm has to offer.

One of the most familiar services of your basic financial account is the ability to write checks. What you may not have been aware of is the fact that brokerage accounts offer this service as well. Depending on the type of account you set up, you may be able to take advantage of unlimited check writing, with no minimum dollar amount per check.

Some of the more popular features of your financial accounts today are convenience items resulting from the technological advances of the last decade or so. Just about anywhere you go, you do not have to worry about having cash on hand to make purchases.

Debit card transactions allow you to pay for goods or services by simply swiping a card at the register, authorizing funds to be debited directly from your account. And when you return home, you can keep track of all your deposits and credits by accessing your account online from your home computer.

These services — debit cards and online account information — are both features that are commonly available through a brokerage firm. With some types of accounts, you can even access research reports to help you plan your next investment moves.

While some banks may provide a few products for retirement planning, working with a brokerage firm affords you a wide variety of investment alternatives as well.

In remodeling, she is motivated partly by the need to be creative and partly by the need to heal a wounded bird — to help the house reach its true potential.

No stranger to the remodeling process — this is the eighth property that she has bought and then carefully renovated — Andrea claims to be energized and excited about this long-term project.

In remodeling, she is motivated partly by the need to be creative and partly by the need to heal a wounded bird — to help the house reach its true potential.

Find

FROM PAGE B1

preferring to listen and determine whether they can work together well. When showing a house to them, if the client doesn't like it, Cole says he won't push them.

"Realtors need to listen to what the client is looking for and not push them in another direction," Cole said. Years after a sale, Cole doesn't want his name to be linked with a bad experience.

Ethical standards, training All real estate agents must be licensed. But many choose to take an additional step and become a Realtor. Realtors must sign a code of ethics developed by the National Association of Realtors, said Polly Hamm, executive director of the Bakersfield Association of Realtors. The person vows to adhere to the code, which is in addition to real estate and state law.

Realtors vow they will protect and promote their client's interest and will be honest with all parties involved. They are to avoid exaggeration, misrepresentation and concealing pertinent information. They are to be knowledgeable and competent, and they must also disclose if they have current or contemplated interest in the property.

"We're promising to be the best we can be," Lancaster said.

"I want a client for life," she said, hoping to achieve that through professional and honest business dealings.

If trying to decide on an agent based on receiving several business cards, she suggests looking for designations after the person's name. Those will indicate extra training.

Lancaster, for example, is taking courses toward the Graduate Realtor Institute (GRI) designation and will add it to her cards when she earns it.

Experienced vs. new agents There are benefits to choosing an agent who's been in the business for decades as well as an up-and-comer.

An experienced agent has expertise and can pinpoint when the market may fluctuate, Olson said. A new agent will have up-to-date training and enthusiasm. They may also hustle more because they know they have to prove themselves.

"Don't turn away from a new agent because they are new," said Greg Harvey, general manager with Touchstone Real Estate Group, Inc. "They may be more aware of what's new."

After all the options are weighed, deciding who to pick may come down to personality, Olson said.

TIPS FOR PICKING AN AGENT

■ Know the difference between licensed sales persons and Realtors: a Realtor adheres to a code of ethics developed by the National Association of Realtors.

■ Ask family, friends for referrals.

■ Is the company the best for open weekends and evenings?

■ Does that company really handle calls from clients?

■ Interview several agents.

■ Watch for negotiations.

— Source: Sheila Cole, Realtor

REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS

on real estate, their expertise, treat clients and choose.

■ Michele Lancaster, Realtor, Coldwell Banker: "My clients never have any of my imagination. I want them to trust me and their property."

■ Alan Cole, Realtor, Carter Real Estate: "You are a salesperson at the door, and the client (the buyer) want to be treated."

■ Greg Harvey, general manager of Touchstone Real Estate Group, Inc.: "If you had a great experience with us, that's the way to go."

■ Theresa Olson, sales representative with KW Associates, Realtor: "Ask exactly what kind of strategy they (the agent) use."

■ Sheila Henderson, Realtor, Coldwell Banker: "Most people fall into their Realtor's trap."

WANT TO CHECK

on a real estate agent?

A consumer who checks the status of a real estate agent or sees if the agency disciplinary action can be found at the state office of Real Estate's Web site at www.dre.ca.gov.

Glass-Sabine

FROM PAGE B1

No stranger to the remodeling process — this is the eighth property that she has bought and then carefully renovated — Andrea claims to be energized and excited about this long-term project.

In remodeling, she is motivated partly by the need to be creative and partly by the need to heal a wounded bird — to help the house reach its true potential.

"It does not occur to me that I am being brave and courageous; it's just plain fun."

Following Phase One, we will continue our dialogue with Andrea and follow the progress of the work. Watch this space for details of Phase II in which she will concentrate on garden landscaping, walls and other exterior details.

You may contact the residential real estate team of Judith Glass and Sheila Sabine at 510-326-5055 or through their Web site at www.GlassSabine.com.



LEILA GOUGH
Money Matters

The underlying investment for a brokerage account is a money market mutual fund. Your financial consultant can provide you with a prospectus for the fund, which contains more complete information — including charges and expenses — and should be read carefully before investing or sending money.

Money market funds are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency, and the checking account is not FDIC insured either. Although the fund is managed to maintain a stable net asset value of \$1 per share, the value of the fund will fluctuate and you could lose money.

Leila Gough is an Associate Vice President with A.G. Edwards, in Oakland. She can be reached at 510-452-8060.

Avoid dry rot, mildew, mo

■ Residential drainage systems focus of next Saturday's free seminar

TRUITT & WHITE

Water can be the nemesis for homeowners and builders alike. Improper drainage systems do the most damage. Dry rot and mold which can result from the lack of or improper drainage are not only serious health hazards, but they are expensive and difficult to repair or eliminate.

Greg Casoro of Casoro Construction specializes in drainage installations and solutions. He will present information on how to evaluate and implement effective drainage systems in a traditionally filled-to-capacity event next Saturday, Feb. 11 at 11 a.m.

Reservations are required and refreshments will be served. Call 510-649-2674 or register on-line at www.truittandwhite.com/seminars to reserve your space.

This popular seminar will be held at the Truitt and White Conference Room 1817 Second St. in Berkeley. For more information, call 510-841-0511.

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Market for Realtors continues to boom

By ALAN J. HEAVENS
Knight Ridder Newspapers
How many agents it take to sell real estate? These days, it's a million.

In every segment of the economy except housing faltered over the last three years, the number of real estate agents has gone beyond anyone's expectations. There are 962,000 dues-paying members of the National Association of Realtors, an increase of more than 200,000 in those years. In fact, the size of the increase has confounded the industry who held technology, which gives consumers greater access to information controlled by real estate agents and brokers, to have the opposite effect. John Tuccillo, former chief economist with the Realtors' Council, has long contended that would be a shakeout. "You can't explain what is happening very easily," he said. "When we lose their jobs, becoming a real estate agent and selling \$1 million in real estate looks like a good idea."

But because half of the people in the business can't fully justify being in the business doesn't seem to matter." Tuccillo and others believe the shakeout will occur once the housing boom goes bust. Economists inside and outside the housing industry don't think it's happening soon.

Constance Mae chief economist for the National Association of Realtors' Council in late January when he said that the indicators of sales point toward, but still strong, activity in 2004, after another year of solid sales in 2003.

For all but 6 percent of top agents, real estate is a second career, according to data provided by the Realtors' group of 2003 Realtors member

members.

Some industry experts see this as not a good thing. At par-

ty you'll hear someone say he is a real estate agent, "but he's a teacher," said Al Dalton, president of Real Estate.

"Basically, that person

is trying to apologize for be-

ing in the same breath as some other professionals.

"Corporate mergers have brought some top-notch professionals into the business that is giving the industry a nice mix of backgrounds," she said.

And Artur and others believe that more immigrants and minorities are being attracted to the ranks. Since these two groups are the source of a growing number of buyers, it makes perfect sense.

Ninety percent of Realtors are white, compared with 92 percent in the Realtor group's 2001 survey. Black, Hispanic and Asian Realtors now make up 10 percent of the group.

Groups such as the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals encourage non-Hispanic agents and brokers to work with Spanish-speaking buyers and sellers to increase homeownership rates.

THE TYPICAL REALTOR IN 2003

- Was a 51-year-old married female.
- Had pursued some form of higher education.
- Owned her own home.
- Was affiliated with an independently owned, non-franchised real estate firm.
- Worked 40 hours per week.
- Completed 13 transaction sides per year. (A transaction is composed of two sides: the listing side and the selling side. Agents on the buying and selling side split the commission.)
- Did not hold an ownership interest in her firm.
- Had a gross personal income of \$52,200.
- Communicated with her clients by e-mail regularly.

—The 2003 National Association of Realtors Member Profile

who need face-to-face contact and have you accessible all the time."

Having people going in and out of that revolving door "doesn't result in professionalism by any stretch of the imagination," he said.

More women than men tend to be part-time agents, the survey showed. Despite the recent influx, the typical Realtor has 13 years' experience, while almost 24 percent have 16 to 25 years in the business.

John Duffy, broker-owner of Duffy Real Estate in Narberth, Pa., and Wayne, Pa., said many of the newcomers were misreading the signs.

"They see all the sold signs, multiply the number by 6 percent (commission), and think it would be easy to make a living," Duffy said. "What they don't realize is that they should divide that number by 4, because that is about what they will earn after expenses, if they are lucky."

In other words, 1.5 percent goes to the agent.

Noelle Barbone, a broker and manager of Weichert Realtors' Paoli, Pa., office, believes that the industry has benefited to some extent from the influx of newcomers.

"Corporate mergers have brought some top-notch professionals into the business that is giving the industry a nice mix of backgrounds," she said.

And Artur and others believe that more immigrants and minorities are being attracted to the ranks. Since these two groups are the source of a growing number of buyers, it makes perfect sense.

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The Hispanic agents' group

See REALTOR, Page B7

Let's do it for the kids . . . well, maybe not

Number 452 in a series of true experiences in real estate

When I was young, newly married, and renting an apartment for the first time, my grandfather drove me by an orchard in full bloom commenting that grandma and he used to own that land. Probably because I was full of nesting thoughts, I found the sight of the orchard enchanting. I easily imagined a little cottage, clothes on the line, standing there among the flowering trees, a place that my husband and I could nestle into.

But the land belonged to someone else. It was not to be mine. I asked my grandfather why they'd sold it. "Taxes," he said. "No sense in paying the taxes on it."

Recently, I remembered that orchard again (no doubt worth a small fortune now) when my ex-husband asked if Anet and I would list for sale his property in Oakland's Rockridge neighborhood. Along with partners, he and I had bought the property — three beautiful old apartments — while we were still married and our children were very young. As we did work on the building, buffing and refining it, we confirmed that it was an investment for our kids.

Maybe we'd use the equity to pay for college. Or, if our kids didn't go to college, when they left home, maybe they'd live there. Certainly we hoped to pass it along to them when we died.

Things changed. Our partners decided to move on to other ventures, and so we bought them out. A few years later, my husband and I separated. He moved into one of the apartments at the property and the kids lived there, part of the week with him, the rest with me.

After several years, feeling strongly that East Bay living was simply too expensive, my ex moved to northern California and, after much negotiation, we belatedly divided up our assets. He got the duplex. Now he wanted to sell, saying that he was certainly sorry. He'd prefer to keep it for our kids, he said, but he'd remarried and he and his wife would like to do some traveling while they're still in reasonable health.

Also, managing from a distance is difficult. Tenants change, repairs need to be made, workmen met. I understand. Owning rental property is a business that demands time and care and money. But I wondered if there was a way for me to save this asset, a clever plan to make it available for our kids.

Anet and I did some research and came up with a probable sale price. My ex talked to his tax person and got an estimate of the cash he would net from the sale after paying income taxes. The taxes are large; he wouldn't get nearly as much money as either of us had at first guessed.

And so, for several days, Anet and I talked about how I might pay my ex to keep the property. I'd have to raise the cash, which I thought I could do. And we'd have to have

some sort of agreement that the property would be left to the children as their inheritance. Probably that was doable.

But there remained one stumbling block, a big one: Someone would have to manage the property, and I didn't want it to be me.

A professional manager could be hired. But as both my ex and I feel strongly about personal devotion to the health and upkeep of property, I just couldn't imagine giving someone. The kids aren't at a place yet where they could take care of things, and I don't know when they might be.

Over and over again I asked myself if I could take on the running of this property? The cost of living here, the costs of buying a home are so large that it would be a tremendous assist to the kids to have this property.

Also, if they inherited it from their dad, they'd retain his pre-proposition 13 property taxes. And, if they chose to sell it, they would not have to pay the same high capital gains taxes their dad faces.

All are strong arguments for holding onto property already owned, just like my grandparents' orchard. But also like that orchard, there are costs for holding on. For me, it wasn't the taxes that were making me reluctant. It was the time and effort necessary.

I finally decided I couldn't do it. The property would be sold. We listed it, had some cleaning and painting and staging done, tweaked



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some fine details, and put it on the market.

It's a wonderful property, handsome, well maintained, in a great location. A lot of people thought so. Crowds of buyers and agents came to our open houses and we gave out, unprecedented for us, 47 disclosure packages to those requesting them. There were 13 offers to buy.

So many people found the property appealing, including the winning buyer who will be living there, that the sale price is beyond what I could have matched. I could not have found or borrowed enough money to buy it for my kids.

They won't be inheriting this property from their dad, which is too bad, but I'm trying to be philosophical about it. I don't believe that children are owed an inheritance and, anyway, maybe they'll want to live in another area, one with housing that regular working people can afford.

Pat Talbert and Anet Tarpoff are residential real estate agents who can be reached at 653-2050 and at www.tarpoffandtalbert.com.

Taking a look around the East Bay real estate community

News and information for and about the area real estate community and affiliated industries.

FOR THE PUBLIC

Info

The public is always welcome at the Inforum Meeting sponsored by the Alameda Association of Realtors.

The next meeting is 8:30 a.m., Feb. 16. The location is the Garden Isle Community Center on Melrose Avenue in Alameda. You are invited to "Laugh Yourself Safe" presented by Crime Stop USA. Agents are encouraged to bring information on new listings. For more information contact Mary Canizzaro at 510-523-7229.

Workshop

Ever wonder if you could own a home? Attend the "Let's Get Started-Homeownership Workshop," at 7 p.m., Monday, Feb. 9. The class is in the conference room of the Lake Merritt Professional Building, on Grand Avenue in Oakland. This is for all types of borrowers, even those with less than perfect credit. Find out if you qualify and get started on your future now. Call the Loan Arranger William Pettaway of Olympia Funding at 925-469-2229.

How To

"How To Buy Your First or Next Home" is held at Ryan's Antiques in Hayward. Learn about the variety of loan programs available and how much house you can afford. Join presenters Aileen Matteson of Coldwell Banker and Jeff McCary of Frontier Mortgage for the next session, 7 to 9 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 19. Contact Matteson for a reservation at 510-888-2105.

Alliance

The National Association of Realtors is a member of the Home-owners Alliance. The organization is dedicated to preserving,

protecting and expanding housing opportunities for all Americans. NAR is one of five organizations on the Alliance's board of directors. This will ensure Realtors have a seat at the table when decisions are made concerning national housing policy.

To find out more about NAR visit www.realtor.org.

e-PRO

Free. The National Association of Realtors supports the only online technology certification program called e-PRO. The Alameda Association of Realtors is offering a free introduction to the course, 1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 12. International Speaker Saul Klein tells how becoming an e-PRO will differentiate you from the competition. The course is approved for 12 CE credits. Contact Mary Canizzaro at 510-523-7229 or staff@alamedaaor.org to register.

RENTALS

Landlords can eliminate 90 percent of tenant problems with the Free Landlord Workshop. The Rental Housing Association of Northern Alameda County presents the class. Learn about new laws, required notices, screening tips and more. Reservations are required. Call for February workshop dates



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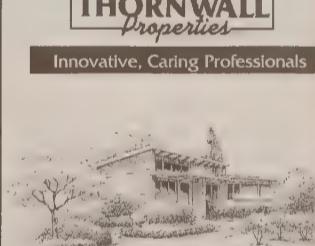
ARPB

The Associated Real Property Brokers (ARPB) presents "The Dynamic Networking Breakfast," from 8 to 10 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 18. The new location is Jimmie's Entertainment Complex on San Pablo, in Oakland. Real estate agents are encouraged to bring flyers and market their properties. The meeting is open forum. For more information call Tyrone Cosey of Fidelity National Title at 510-893-8100.

See REID, Page B4

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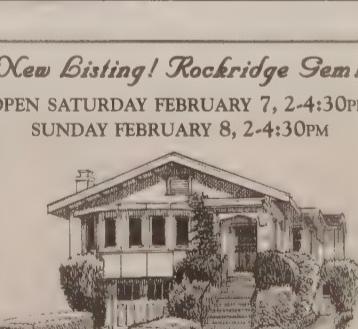
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California sellers reaped record gain in 2003

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

Propelled by double-digit price appreciation that was twice that of the nation, California homesellers reaped a record median gain of \$150,000 in 2003, according to the "State of the Housing Market 2003" report by the California Association of Realtors (C.A.R.).

"Net cash to sellers has never been higher since C.A.R. began conducting our annual survey of the California housing market," said C.A.R. Vice President and Chief Economist Leslie Appleton-Young. "Sellers in 2003 realized an 8 percent annualized rate of return, far exceeding the returns on many other investment options."

C.A.R. has conducted its annual housing market survey since 1981.

For buyers, robust price appreciation impacted the home financing component of the purchase transaction, according to the report.

"As the median home price soared to historic highs, the median downpayment rose by 20 percent in 2003 to \$59,000," Appleton-Young said. "There also was a \$60,000 gap between the median downpayment of a repeat buyer (\$86,950) and that of a first-time buyer (\$25,500)."

The "State of the Housing Market 2003" report also revealed that

Sellers in 2003 realized an 8 percent annualized rate of return, far exceeding the returns on many other investment options

nearly one out of four transactions in 2003 involved a second mortgage, an 18 percent increase compared to 2002 and well above the 20-year record low of 4.4 percent in 1988, but below that of the 1980 when their use exceeded 40 percent.

To purchase C.A.R.'s "State of the Housing Market 2003" call 213-739-8352 or e-mail mary@car.org. Cost for an electronic version is \$29.95 for C.A.R. members and \$39.90 for non-members; and \$49.95 for a hard copy for C.A.R. members and \$39.90 for non-members.

The California Association of Realtors is one of the largest state trade organizations in the United States, with more than 130,000 members dedicated to the advancement of professionalism in real estate. C.A.R. is headquartered in Los Angeles.

Reid

FROM PAGE B3

HOUSING

The Rental Housing Association of Northern Alameda County offers a membership meeting monthly. Non-members are also invited to attend. The next meeting is 6:45 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 19. The meeting is held at the Greek Orthodox Church, on Lincoln Avenue, in Oakland. For information and registration call the RHANAC office at 510-893-9873.

LORDSHIPS

The Women's Council of Realtors East Bay Chapter monthly meeting date is Friday, Feb. 20. The meeting begins with networking at 11:30. The location is H's Lordships in Berkeley. For reservations call WCR President, Patricia Boule Hinds of Classic Investments at 510-834-0702 or boulehinds@sbcglobal.net.

COMMERCIAL

Bob Valva of Valva invites Oakland real estate brokers to attend the Oakland Realtors Commercial & Industrial Brokers Committee. According to Valva, the group was appointed years ago by the Oakland mayor to facilitate city sales and leasing. The committee's purpose is to help build Oakland. The next meeting is Thursday, Feb. 12, at the OAR Auditorium on Web-

ster Street. If you would like to attend call Valva at 510-451-7317.

6100 TOYS

Coldwell Banker of Northern California collected over 6100 toys and 1300 coats for needy families. The collections benefited Toys For Tots and Operation: One Warm Coat charity programs. For 16 years Coldwell Banker has been an official sponsor of both programs. For more information visit www.CaliforniaMoves.com.

CREDITS

The California Association of Realtors offers customizable versions of its continuing education courses. This is intended to meet individual Realtor needs. Create your own 45-hour continuing education package for license renewal. Contact your local association for more details.

ALLIANCE

Prudential California Realty (PCR) announced its affiliation with The Realty Alliance, a real estate networking and think tank group. This will enable PCR to benchmark their technology, programs and services. The Realty Alliance offers its members a curriculum of ongoing informative meetings and seminars. To learn more visit the Web site at www.prweb.com.

RETIREES

There's good news for retiring Re/Max agents. In response to a

growing number of requests, RE/MAX International has created the RE/MAX Alumni Program. As an alumnus, former associates can attend conventions, enjoy supplier discounts and retain some of the other benefits. Check it out at www.remax.net.

NATC Castro Valley office to say "hey" at 510-887-9877.

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\$589,000

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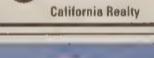
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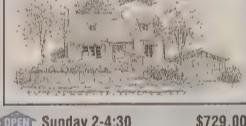


Sunday 2-4

\$899,000

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Sunday 2-4:30

\$729,000

2660 Camino Lenada, Oakland. Charming 3BR/2BA Cape Cod w/ Craftsman details.

Hope Broderick (510) 339-9290



Sunday 2-5

\$589,000

5953 Thornhill, Oakland. Just listed! 4+BR, lovely 40's home + studio!

Adrienne Nash (510) 845-0211



Sunday 2-4

\$549,000

1543 Prince, Berkeley. 5BR/3.5BA, new construction, off-street parking, private yards.

Laura Margulius (510) 868-1400



Sat 2-4 & Sun 1-5

\$320,000

765 Wilson, Richmond. 3BR/2BA, updated, hwd floors, fireplace, new floor + paint.

Kathleen Wilson (510) 527-5725

Oakland/Piedmont

Alameda

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Heidi Marchesotti (510) 339-9290

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1616B Fernside. Price reduced, 3BR/2.5BA, no yard. Boat dock and slip.

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Where should I buy my Bay Area home?

BARBARA HENDRICKSON
AND CINDY WILSON
JUSTSELLMYHOUSE.COM

Like everything else,
where we choose to live is
one of the most important decisions we make.

We've all heard before, there
are two things that really matter:
time and money, and both are
true. Most of us remember when
\$100,000 was a lot of money for a
house. And around the same time
that \$100,000 was \$79,000.
The minimum wage
was \$2. The minimum wage
about \$4.50/hr. and a realty
annual salary was \$25,000.

Mortgage rates hovered around
10 percent. And remember the short
time when it was even 18 percent?

Today the same house is over
\$100,000, gas is close to \$2 a gallon
and a movie is \$8.

The good news — interest rates
still remain at about 6 percent

(what it was back in the good
days). And when we talk to new
buyers, that fact is what really
matters.

In today's real estate market, it's
not how much it costs them to buy
a house but how much they have
to pay a month to own it. As long
as they can afford the payments,
and not have to eat beans unless
it is in a burrito in a local taqueria,
they want to pursue the American
Dream of home ownership.

One question people have been
asking us recently is why people
will pay arm and a leg to live in
Berkeley or it's fingers — Kensington,
North Oakland, or Albany? Is it the
community offers? Is it the location? The answer is both.

Like most Americans, our buyers
lead extremely busy lives. If par-
tnered, both generally have full time
jobs and other major time commit-
ments — children, school, family
and social obligations, the list is
endless. Time, therefore, is their
major consideration.

They are not interested in spending
any more precious moments than are
absolutely necessary commuting to anything. Proximity to their
jobs, children's schools, shopping
and transportation is para-

Like most Americans, our buyers are not
interested in spending any more precious
moments than are absolutely necessary
commuting to anything. Proximity to their jobs,
children's schools, shopping and transportation
is paramount

mount and, of course, they want to
be able to enjoy all of the community
resources that they paid dearly to
live near-by.

In fact, a house without a view
in the hills now often sells for less
than a comparable one in the flats
that is walking distance to coffee or
transportation.

But getting back to why it costs so
much more to buy in Berkeley. First
of all hardly anyone ever moves
which means that there is very little
available to buy. As always supply
and demand rule the day.

We think that's because there's not
much that can't be found in Berkeley.
People like living here.

Cultural diversity from thinking
to eating is celebrated. Many of the
greatest minds in the country live
and work here which makes sitting
in a cafe over a cup of coffee much
more interesting especially if you
are into occasional eavesdropping.

There are artist communities,
shops and synagogues, world-class
restaurants and a symphony, all
kinds of theater featuring everything
from the most avant garde produc-
tions to the classics.

And within minutes even com-
mitted city folk like us can be found
trekking on trails in the hills for-
getting our responsibilities or solv-
ing the challenges of our everyday
lives while communing with nature.
Even the politics (like 'em or not)
are unique. It's the energy of the
community that everyone wants to
be a part of.

Even though there's a much big-

ger bang for the buck 15 minutes
up the road in the more suburban
communities of Richmond, Pinole,
or El Sobrante where the same
\$500,000 will buy you twice the
square footage and double the lot,
(and a lot more of our clients did
take advantage of that fact last
year), most prefer the cosmopolitan
life-style that Berkeley offers if
they can manage it.

Growing in popularity of late, is
neighboring El Cerrito which is by
the clock just a minute or so north
of Berkeley. If we imagine a 1500
square foot bungalow in Berkeley
somewhere around \$700,000 and
Pinole at about \$450,000, El Cer-
rito splits the difference.

Depending upon where you start
from, barely a mile north of Berke-
ley, it's becoming more cos-
mopolitan and its appeal, for the
money, increasing.

Close to BART and with a re-
cently renovated Plaza bringing in
more up-scale shops and restaurants,
El Cerrito is a considerable alterna-
tive, especially for us Trader Joe junkies.

No matter which side of the coin
you are on, buying or selling, 2004
promises to be an active year in the
real estate market because indeed
we have a variety of interesting
communities to live in for which
there is a strong demand and very
little inventory.

*Barbara and Cindy can be
reached on the World Wide Web at
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Experience Oakland's Chapel of the Chimes

Julia Morgan creation
next Saturday for
a docent-led tour

Oakland's historic Chapel of the
Chimes at 4499 Piedmont Ave. invites
you to a tour through through
10 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 14.

The fascinating building began in
with the establishment of the

Alameda Memorial Crematorium

Columbarium, the first such fa-

in the East Bay

1928, it had grown into a

beautiful chapel and columbarium

designed by prominent Bay Area

architect Julia Morgan. Convinced

the columbarium should be a

a place of tranquility,

she introduced an intriguing

array of gardens,

waterfalls, alcoves, stairwells, foun-

tains and chapels rising into

vaulted ceilings and illuminated by
dazzling natural light.

Morgan's vision has been
maintained as the facility has ex-
panded to one and a half city
blocks, to include a new funeral
home, which opened in January
1999 — the same year, the City of
Oakland designated this historic
site as a city landmark.

The Chapel of the Chimes is a
community treasure preserved from
the past and entrusted to
present and future generations.
Beautiful gardens, alcoves, clois-
ters, stairwells, fountains and
chapels rising into vaulted cei-
lings and illuminated by natural
light await you.

Space is limited for this free,
docent-guided tour. Call 510-654-
0123 for more information and to
reserve your space.

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SUN.
2-4

5830 SELMI GROVE, RICHMOND

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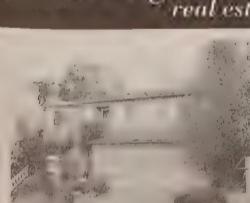


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fabulous park-like backyard.

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PENDING

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tennis courts and spa. Tere 510-814-4840.

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Monarch Bay Golf Course and near El
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2ba home with open floor plan in living
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countertops. Panoramic windows. Eunice

PENDING

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New anti-spam law could benefit Realtors

■ One real estate marketing guru thinks the new federal anti-spam bill will benefit agents, despite the challenges of compliance.

BY JESSICA SWESEY

INMAN.COM

Now that one federal anti-spam bill is quickly turning the notion of a national no-e-mail registry into a reality, real estate agents who use e-mail to reach prospective clients will have to rethink their e-mail marketing methods or face steep fines and compliance costs.

A no-e-mail registry to be created by the Federal Trade Commission could be an expensive burden for Realtors who would have to screen all their commercial e-mail against the list of restricted addresses. And many Realtors are still struggling to comply with the agency's Do-Not-

Call list, which includes some 53 million telephone numbers that businesses are prohibited from calling.

However, one real estate marketing guru thinks the new federal anti-spam bill will benefit agents' marketing campaigns, despite the challenges of compliance.

Greg Herder, a Realtor and co-founder of Newport Beach, Calif.-based Hobby Herder Advertising, believes the legislation will force agents to think about how to get permission to send e-mail messages to consumers. Agents will also have to think about how to send high-quality e-mail that will be valuable to recipients.

"This is a huge opportunity because people who meet that challenge both graphically and with content will have a leg up on their competition," he said.

President Bush signed the federal anti-spam bill, known as the "Can-Spam Act." The bill creates a single set of rules for commercial e-mail and force businesses to include a valid return address

and opt-out provision in all e-mail messages sent. It also prohibits the use of misleading subject lines and curbs the practice of harvesting e-mail addresses off the Web.

The bill itself isn't all that daunting. It's the provision that instructs the FTC to formulate a plan to establish a national Do-Not-E-mail registry that could pose some serious problems for Realtors. Herder recommends that agents obtain written approval now to call and e-mail prospective clients in the future so there's no question about permission once the spam bill goes into effect. Agents should focus more on the quality of their e-mail messages and more accurately targeting their recipients.

"(Agents) can't ever afford to send a bad e-mail," he said. One poorly executed e-mail message can prevent every future message from going through to a recipient, Herder said. If the consumer opens the first e-mail and doesn't find value in the content,

he or she will likely activate a spam filter to block messages from that agent from coming through next time.

Herder believes the proliferation of spam doesn't hurt agents with initial costs, but it can damage an agent's image in the long run and cost them clients.

The real cost of spam is passed on to the people who receive it. Spam costs time and money to filter and puts a business' technology at risk from the many viruses transmitted through electronic mail.

The National Association of Realtors' stance on spam legislation is cautious and carefully worded. The trade group wants to stop junk e-mails that clog its members' inboxes and handheld devices, but it doesn't want to obstruct Realtors' ability to market their services and products through unsolicited e-mail messages.

The Realtor association supports the "Can-Spam Act" the House passed last week, but isn't entirely convinced it is the right tool to curb spam, according to NAR spokesperson Lucien Salvant. "We do have some concerns with (the bill), just like we had concerns with the Do-Not-Call registry," he said.

One main concern is over the complexity and financial burden of member compliance with a national do-not-e-mail registry. Salvant said the association anticipates writing a letter to the FTC to address some of these issues.

NAR adopted a policy in November that supports efforts to control fraudulent, misleading and abusive unsolicited e-mails as long as those efforts are balanced with the needs of small business to conduct legitimate business via e-mail without the imposition of significant compliance burdens.

Go to www.inman.com for more real estate news.

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Resort to (common) law to trim intrusive tree

Q. You had a recent article in your column about tree roots endangering a garage next door. What recourse do I have when a neighbor's large tree is growing over my garage and repeated requests to have it trimmed or cut down have not met with success?

—C.A. Smida

A. As with any relationship between neighbors, the best solution is to resolve it between you and your neighbor. If you can't get a reasonable solution from your neighbor, then it would be best to consult your local city or county ordinances to see what remedies may be available to you. If there are no ordinances specifically guiding property-owners actions, then common law would say that you may trim that part of the tree which is encroaching on your property.

Q. We own 75 acres of land in Wood County, Wis. The land is surrounded by county land and we have no legal access to it. We have

requested this from the county and they refused. What are our options to secure legal easement?

—Helen Jepson

A. Somewhere in the land's history, access was possible. Then, the land was divided into many parcels, of which one is yours. Because you do not have ready access to your property, you may be able to claim an easement by necessity to access your parcel. This type of easement is quite common when parcels are "landlocked" and they are relatively easy to obtain.

You may need to hire an attorney to get the paperwork processed since going to the county directly did not apparently work for you.

Tom Hamilton, Ph.D., is associate professor at the Shenehon Center for Real Estate Education at the University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis. E-mail questions to: thwamilton@stthomas.edu. Please include name, city and state.



TOM HAMILTON
Real Estate Q&A

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Oakland . . . Rockridge

- 3 acres/3 lots (possibly 9) \$1,500,000

Berkeley Hills

- 12,688 sq. ft. (tear-down house) \$465,000

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Diana Yonkouski, Broker



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Rates remain competitive

By JOHN HANDLEY
CHICAGO TRIBUNE
A real wave of home buying has washed across the country in the last three years may ebb in 2004. But prospective buyers will still be left stranded on the beach.

Even a weaker housing industry will still be performing at near record levels, according to Doug Duncan, chief economist of the Mortgage Bankers Association, a trade group based in Washington, D.C.

"We are thinking of buying a house this year will find mortgage rates slightly, from about 6 percent now for a 30-year, fixed-rate loan, to 6.5 percent, Duncan said. In a mostly sunny outlook for 2005. The upward trend will continue, hitting 7 percent by the third quarter of 2005.

Meanwhile, residential prices

were up 4 percent to 5 percent a

more modest increase

in the recent past.

Rock-bottom interest rates have fueled frenzied activity in the mortgage and housing industries, power

ing through the recession. Consumers have been cashing in the good times, buying

houses, refinancing mortgages and

giving up some of their equity.

In the mortgage industry,

which sees stormy weather ahead.

The refinancing boom of

the last three years seems

to be a plunge, which will

lead to a significant contraction

in the industry.

That's because refinancings,

which account for 66 percent of

the mortgage pie in 2003, "will

drop to 28 percent in 2004, cutting

the annual volume of mortgage origi-

nations in half — from \$3.3 trillion

to \$1.8 trillion," Duncan said.

Though refis will plunge, mort-

gage originations for the pur-

pose of homes will hold up to

2003 levels. And, the con-

sumer will benefit from the in-

creased competition for mortgage

lending.

"Mortgage companies will have to be more creative and competitive next year," said Robert Couch, newly elected chairman of the MBA.

Consumers also might reap some benefits from increased competition among appraisers and title companies. In the home-appraisal phase of getting a mortgage, there will be more availability and more choice of appraisers, according to Alan Hummel, president of the Appraisal Institute, which has 18,000 members nationwide and headquarters in Chicago and Washington, D.C.

"We have been working with our members for several years to diversify and offer other services. For example, they could develop a specialty of appraising the value of rehabbing. Will a proposed rehab result in a sufficient payback when the house is sold?"

Another possible avenue for diversification for appraisers could involve helping homeowners determine whether their property tax assessment is correct. "If it is overestimated, they may be able to get it lowered," Hummel said.

Despite reduced business in the mortgage market, "home sales in 2004 should be robust by historical standards," Duncan said.

"Imagine a medal stand at the Olympics," Duncan said. "In the housing and mortgage fields, the bronze medal was awarded for the pace of 2001, the silver for 2002 and the gold for 2003. This year, we will drop down a step to the level of 2002."

He forecast "a modest damping of first-time buyers. Recently, because of failing rates, move-up buyers were getting more house at the same mortgage rate. But that will not apply in 2004," he said. In the years ahead, Duncan believes a new wave of immigrants will bolster the market, picking up the slack from the baby boomers, who have powered the market for years.

See RATES, Page B8
RATES remain competitive

Realtor

FROM PAGE B3

has created a curriculum — including a recommendation that real estate agents be bilingual — to help all agents get a foot in the door in the Latino market.

The Realtors survey showed that only 15 percent of its members were fluent in a language other than English, and that 8 percent were born in a country other than the United States.

Although many white real estate agents believe that minority buyers prefer working with Realtors from their own race or ethnicity, that isn't always the case.

"Many multicultural clients prefer to keep their finances secret," said Michael Lee, a Castro Valley, Calif., Realtor and author of a book on multiculturalism. "If they work with someone in their group, they fear that the person will spread that information to others in the group."

Although the percentage of women Realtors has not changed since the 55 percent recorded in the 2001 survey, the roles of men and women within the industry have continued to change.

In the late 1970s, men accounted for nearly 80 percent of all brokers. As of 2003, 52 percent of brokers were women. "I've watched it evolve," said Barbone, the Weichert broker, who began selling real estate in Delaware County in 1969. "It seems more balanced between men and women these days, and that's nice to see."

Barbone said that it seemed for a period that fewer men were getting into the business, but that appears to have changed recently — probably because of corporate downsizing.

For the first time since 1984, the median age of real estate agents declined in 2003, to 49 years from 50 years in 2001. However, more than one-third of all agents are 55 years or older, compared with 21 percent in 1978.

The median age of brokers also has declined since 2001 to 52 from 54 — which reflects the growth in

If less than 1 percent of all sales agents gross \$500,000 or more a year, where are all those million-dollar agents?

the number of brokers below age 40, considered by the Realtors' group to be a trend.

The strong housing market pushed Realtor gross income 9 percent higher between 2001 and 2003, the survey showed. Nearly 25 percent of Realtors had a gross income of \$100,000 in 2002, the previous full year before the survey was conducted, while only 10 percent could say that in 1996.

And, as one might expect, the longer a person has been selling real estate, the more money he or she is bringing in. Even though incomes for male and female Realtors have increased since 2000, males grossed \$59,700 in 2002, while women earned \$47,100. The survey attributed the gap to the fact that more men than women were selling real estate full-time.

Brokers earned \$65,300 in 2002, down from \$73,400 in 2000. Several factors contributed to that decline, including the influx of newer, less experienced brokers; a drop in the number of hours a broker works; and an increase in the number reporting that they function primarily as sales agents.

If less than 1 percent of all sales agents gross \$500,000 or more a year, where are all those "million-dollar agents?"

A common perception is that we make millions of dollars a year because we get to keep a 6 percent commission on every house," Lee said.

"As any agent knows, after the broker takes out the expenses of doing business, the agent gets only 2 percent, from which he has to pay his own expenses and taxes."

By the way, only 1 percent of all brokers grossed \$500,000 or more in 2002.

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NEW LISTING

Rates

FROM PAGE B7

"The health of the real estate finance market is directly dependent on jobs creation, and we anticipate significant job growth through 2004 and 2005," he added.

Since Duncan made the forecasts, the economy has shown signs of strong growth, with some of that beginning to show up in new jobs. "That's good news," he said recently. "It confirms our forecast. Job growth has picked up earlier than we thought, and unemployment will gradually move down."

There are potential problems on the horizon, however, and though they may seem remote and difficult to understand, they could directly affect consumers.

One is the financial safety of the mortgage industry. In June, the rock-solid reputation of Freddie Mac, the mortgage giant, took a hit when the company fired three of its top executives amid charges of accounting irregularities.

Treasury Secretary John Snow called for more oversight of Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, the nation's other mortgage powerhouse.

The Bush administration favors turning over regulation of Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae to the U.S. Treasury to assure markets that the mortgage finance companies do not pose a risk to the financial system. The two companies own or guarantee more than 40 percent of all mortgages in the United States.

Critics of Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae contend that they use their quasi-governmental status to unfairly control the mortgage market and that they lack scandal that disrupts mortgage financing could have the effect of raising rates and depressing the housing sector. The consensus among mortgage bankers is that oversights are coming, but the timing is uncertain.

"We need a strong regulator. We are very supportive of that," said Paul Peterson, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Freddie Mac.

Peterson stressed, though, that his company's troubles never posed a risk to the economy or the country. "We told our investors that our problem was an accounting issue, not a fundamental change in our business. Auditors are doing a final review now. Restatement of our earnings will be released in late November. It is expected to show we had earnings of \$4.5 billion more than in the previous statement," Peterson said at the MBA gathering.

Franklin Raines, chairman and chief executive officer of Fannie Mae, said the government's concerns started when Freddie Mac's problems came to light. "Companies of our size need regulation, but when I testified before the Senate Banking Committee, I sensed that the members did not view this as a crisis."

Raines noted that there is broad-based bipartisan support for a strong regulator of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in Treasury. "That could get done in a hurry, but it could be slowed down by some people who think the country is

The health of the real estate finance market is directly dependent on jobs creation, and we anticipate significant job growth through 2004 and 2005.

Douglas Duncan
Chief Economist
Mortgage Bankers Association

spending too much money on housing. They are not interested in the safety of the mortgage industry, but in restraint."

Another potential problem is the increasing number of mortgage delinquencies and foreclosures, attributed to a slow economy and an expansion of home lending to people with low incomes. The delinquency rate for FHA loans rose from 8 percent in 2000 to 12.6 percent this year, according to an MBA survey. By contrast, the delinquency rate for conventional loans is up only slightly to 3.1 percent.

A so-called subprime mortgage industry has developed to lend to people with a higher risk of default. While widening the spectrum of borrowers eligible for mortgages, the risk of default also widens.

"Because of the tremendous growth in nonprime lending, we can expect a big boost in delinquencies and foreclosures," Duncan said.

He noted that unemployment is the No. 1 factor in delinquencies.

Today's high level of consumer debt has worried some economists, but not Duncan. "Consumer debt never has caused a recession," he said.

Others fear that rising residential prices will inflate a price bubble that could burst. "I'm not in the bubble camp," he said. "There is a modest supply of homes, so higher prices are supported by supply and demand."

WEEKLY SALES

ALAMEDA

1008 Auburn Dr - \$530,000
1227 Ballena Bl - \$640,000
135 Bannister Wy - \$583,000
1429 Bay St - \$947,500
1417 Central Dr - \$720,000
308 Coral Reef Rd - \$538,500
1125 Court St - \$500,000
1209 Eagle Av - \$465,000
33 Justice Cr - \$670,000
2029 Otis Dr - \$343,000
920 Otis Dr - \$705,000
2617 San Jose Av - \$501,000
1503 Santa Clara St - \$534,000
1331 Sherman St - \$405,000
3042 Thompson Av - \$635,000
1027 Verdeman Dr - \$369,000
917 Walnut St - \$494,000
3106 Washington St - \$589,000
2029 Yorkshire Pl - \$775,000

ALBANY

805 Curtis St - \$435,000
1068 Neilson St - \$700,000
555 Pierce St - \$238,000
555 Pierce St 724C - \$262,000
1175 Santa Fe Av - \$593,000

BERKELEY

2010 10th St - \$439,000
2311 9th St - \$630,000
1251 Ashby Av - \$327,500
419 Boynton Av - \$705,000
2201 California St - \$410,000
1722 Capistrano Av - \$849,000
1039 Channing Wy - \$420,000
2312 Curtis St - \$377,000
1225 Delaware St - \$555,000
1346 Haskell St - \$374,000
2130 Haste St - \$610,000
1620 MLK, Jr. Wy - \$512,000
2053 Oregon St - \$479,000
1320 Poe St 3 - \$560,000
745 Woodhaven - \$725,000

House hunting this weekend? Don't miss the Open Home Guide on B15.

EL CERRITO

524 Colusa Av - \$350,000
6921 Fairview Dr - \$570,000
5636 Jordan Av - \$485,000
6850 Kenilworth Av - \$237,500
5334 Rosalind Av - \$415,000

EL SOBRANTE

4199 Garden Ln - \$411,000
5799 Oak Knoll Rd - \$660,000
4174 SP Dam Rd - \$207,000
1043 St. Andrews - \$387,000

EMERYVILLE

1265 66th St - \$256,000
1269 66th St - \$396,500
1271 66th St - \$491,500
1277 66th St - \$256,000
5529 Beaudry - \$363,000
6363 Christie St - \$547,500
2 Commodore D277 - \$325,000
5855 Horton St - \$500,000

KENSINGTON

119 Kenyon Av - \$695,000

OAKLAND

1030 101st Av - \$285,000
1606 101st Av - \$185,000
555 10th St 109 - \$309,000
555 10th St 407 - \$351,000
655 12th St 107 - \$330,000
655 12th St 109 - \$329,000
655 12th St 111 - \$326,000
655 12th St 113 - \$326,500
655 12th St 115 - \$329,500
655 12th St 117 - \$337,000
655 12th St 121 - \$343,500
655 12th St 123 - \$339,000
1433 15th Av - \$226,000
2607 23rd Av - \$500,000

See SALES, Page B9

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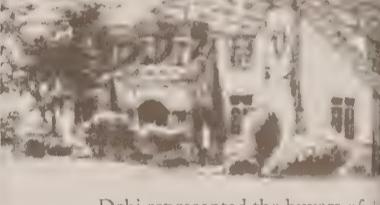


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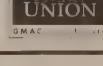
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FROM PAGE B9

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 4481 Mattis Ct - \$635,000
 2901 McKillop Rd - \$480,000
 4630 Melrose Av - \$245,000
 10979 Moonlight Ct - \$14,500
 10981 Moonlight Ct - \$430,500
 10 Moss Av 14 - \$282,000
 707 Nevada St - \$300,000
 3920 Nevil St - \$355,000
 311 Oak St 719 - \$309,000
 6865 Oakland Dr - \$770,000
 233 Orange St 106 - \$270,000
 115 Pershing Dr - \$792,000
 7969 Phaeton Dr - \$761,000
 5199 Pinescrest Dr - \$600,000
 3144 Pleitner Av - \$312,500
 688 Rand Av - \$680,000
 3985 Rhoda Av - \$510,000
 3929 Ruby St - \$417,000
 4037 Rusting Av - \$454,000
 2951 School St - \$320,000
 8506 Seneca St - \$400,000
 2450 Siesta Ln - \$235,000
 2460 Siesta Ln - \$250,000
 45 Spy Glass 108 - \$600,000
 1909 Tiffin Rd - \$470,500
 1530 Tucker St 32 - \$339,000
 1451 Tucker St - \$354,500
 3110 Union St - \$235,000
 511 Van Buren Av - \$765,000
 3654 Victor Av - \$525,000
 7343 Weld St - \$295,000
 1 W. Emb'dero 165 - \$322,000
 7 W. Emb'dero 301 - \$216,000
 1121 Willow St - \$440,000
 4830 Ygnacio Av - \$338,000
 811 York St - \$231,000

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628 Boulevard - \$628,000
 4 Croydon Cr - \$1,300,000
 355 Jerome Av - \$1,025,000
 961 Kingston Av - \$809,500
 48 Manor Dr - \$940,000
 1047 Ranleigh Wy - \$680,000
 300 Scenic Av - \$1,104,000

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 427 31st St - \$400,000
 554 32nd St - \$355,000
 419 38th St - \$380,000
 879 38th St - \$345,000
 145 3rd St - \$300,000
 732 6th St - \$265,000
 2630 Beach Head - \$343,000
 1419 Bissell Av - \$255,000
 5350 Brookwood Ct - \$580,000
 1509 Burbank Av - \$283,000
 2836 Clinton Av - \$390,000
 5619 Columbia Av - \$169,000
 5504 Conestoga Wy - \$495,000
 2200 Costa Av - \$299,000
 5384 Country View - \$585,000
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 3136 Deseret Dr - \$410,000
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 2828 Rheem Av - \$280,000
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 317 South 25th St - \$437,000
 325 South 25th St - \$437,000

See SALES. Page B11



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Refinements

Good Credit.

Less Than Perfect Credit.

Purchasing Power.

Refinancing.

Consolidating Debt.

Low Fees.

Flexible Loan Parameters.

Personal Professional Service Since 1982

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ales

PAGE B10

10 South Marina Wy - \$294,000
10 South Marina Wy - \$292,500
10 South Marina Wy - \$287,000
105 Tehama Av - \$525,000
106 Via Verdi - \$205,000
106 Visalia Av - \$315,000
107 Westwood Ct - \$400,000
102 Woodland Pl - \$625,000

LEANDRO

1028 Alder Creek - \$523,000
105 Atlantic Ct - \$490,000
105 Believel Dr - \$625,000
105 Berkshire - \$460,000
105 Biltmore St - \$647,000
105 Broadmoor Bl - \$635,000
105 Burkhardt Av - \$470,000
105 California Av - \$400,000
105 Callan Av - \$328,000
105 Castle St - \$415,000
105 Collier Dr - \$420,000
105 Devonshire - \$425,000
105 Devonshire Av - \$411,500
105 Dowling Bl - \$451,000
105 Duran Av - \$455,000
105 Elm St - \$345,000
105 Fairbanks St - \$415,000
105 Fairway Dr - \$325,000
105 Greer Av - \$480,000
105 Hesperian 6 - \$230,000
105 Inverness St - \$229,000
105 Juana Av - \$462,500
105 Kilcare Rd - \$440,000
105 Lark St - \$400,000
105 Los Banos - \$365,000
105 Marcella St - \$585,000
105 Marsey Av - \$435,000
105 Morris Av - \$233,500
105 Neptune Dr - \$479,000
105 Pierce Av - \$355,000

1596 Pierce Av - \$355,000
520 Superior Av - \$549,000
500 Warden Av - \$340,000
3847 Yorkshire 8 - \$270,000

AVERAGE PRICE: \$531,500

SAN LORENZO

15467 Ashland - \$424,000
2161 C. Hornitos - \$385,000
502 Crespi Pl - \$408,500
540 Crespi Pl - \$490,000
973 Heather Ln - \$450,000
546 Heritage Cr - \$367,500
662 Heritage Cr - \$354,500
16191 Via Arriba - \$399,000
16059 Via Harriet - \$435,000
1359 Via Manzanas - \$460,000
1240 Via Nube - \$365,000
16012 Via Paro - \$390,000
16069 Via Segundo - \$367,000
17521 Wickman Pl - \$246,000

By the numbers**ALAMEDA**

TOTAL SALES: 19
LOWEST PRICE: \$343,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$947,500
MEDIAN PRICE: \$538,500
AVERAGE PRICE: \$576,000

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 5
LOWEST PRICE: \$238,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$700,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$435,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$445,600

BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 15
LOWEST PRICE: \$327,500
HIGHEST PRICE: \$849,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$512,000

RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 5
LOWEST PRICE: \$237,500
HIGHEST PRICE: \$570,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$415,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$411,500

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST PRICE: \$207,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$660,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$411,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$416,250

EL KORONATI

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST PRICE: \$207,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$660,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$411,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$416,250

LIVERMORE

TOTAL SALES: 8
LOWEST PRICE: \$256,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$547,500
MEDIAN PRICE: \$396,500
AVERAGE PRICE: \$391,938

MENLO PARK

TOTAL SALES: 1
PRICE: \$695,000

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 139
LOWEST PRICE: \$130,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,125,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$345,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$411,730

PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 7
LOWEST PRICE: \$628,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,300,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$940,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$926,643

RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 50
LOWEST PRICE: \$169,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$626,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$345,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$370,170

SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 34
LOWEST PRICE: \$229,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$647,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$425,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$424,368

SAN LORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 15
LOWEST PRICE: \$246,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$490,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$390,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$395,433

This list is provided by California Resource, a real estate information company that obtains the information from the County Recorder's Office. Neither California Resource nor this newspaper guarantees the completeness or accuracy of the information. All questions should be directed to CalResource@aol.com. Call 209-365-6663.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER.

Open Sunday 2-4:30 pm
1950 Leimert Blvd., Oakland
Oakmore Contemporary



This charming bay view contemporary features 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, double decks, updated kitchen, gleaming hardwood floors, spacious family room. Private master suite.

Offered at \$669,000

Tom Anthony, Broker
Anthony Associates
510-834-2300

December

Dolores Thom
(510) 835-6080

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10 Reata Place, Rockridge

Offered at \$789,000

Open Sunday 2-4:30



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Broker Associate
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OAKLAND

OAKLAND

OAKLAND

OAKLAND

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Westmont Heights
New listing! 3+ BR / 2.5 BA, level In/level out patio.
Fenced yard. Peek of Bay. Huge living room, formal dining,
hardwood flooring, separate family rooms, master suite. Double
garage with inside access. Sunny street with sidewalks.
Sale Castle
(510)339-8900

\$535,000
Westmont Heights
New listing! 3+ BR / 2.5 BA, level In/level out patio.
Fenced yard. Peek of Bay. Huge living room, formal dining,
hardwood flooring, separate family rooms, master suite. Double
garage with inside access. Sunny street with sidewalks.
Sale Castle
(510)339-8900



Grand Lake
COMING SOON!

\$488,000
Ivy Hill
A contemporary 2 BR / 2 BA penthouse with a Great Room.
Woodwork and built-ins. 3+ BR / 1.5 BA.
Granite counter kitchen, solarium and private deck. What a
view of the East Bay Hills! Included is extra storage,
in-unit laundry and 2 parking spaces.
Tom Erwin
(510)339-8900

\$539,000
Ivy Hill
A contemporary 2 BR / 2 BA penthouse with a Great Room.
Woodwork and built-ins. 3+ BR / 1.5 BA.
Granite counter kitchen, solarium and private deck. What a
view of the East Bay Hills! Included is extra storage,
in-unit laundry and 2 parking spaces.
Tom Erwin
(510)339-8900

\$539,000
Lake Merritt
"White Glove" quality! This 1,600+ sq. ft. 2 BR / 2 BA co-op on the 10th
floor has a sweeping 180° view of downtown Oakland and out to the SF
Peninsula Hills. Very special decor. 24 hour doorman service and secure
parking are but a few of the amenities. By appointment only.
Tom Erwin
(510)339-8900

\$400,000
Lake Merritt
"White Glove" quality! This 1,600+ sq. ft. 2 BR / 2 BA co-op on the 10th
floor has a sweeping 180° view of downtown Oakland and out to the SF
Peninsula Hills. Very special decor. 24 hour doorman service and secure
parking are but a few of the amenities. By appointment only.
Tom Erwin
(510)339-8900

Lake Merritt
New listing! Light & bright well-kept home in a great
neighborhood. 2+ BR / 2 BA. Hardwood floors, living room with fireplace,
updated bathroom. Peek of Bay views. Garage, in-law unit with separate
entrance. Lovely garden/patio areas with fruit trees.
Deborah Riney
(510)339-8900

\$849,000
Lake Merritt
New listing! Light & bright well-kept home in a great
neighborhood. 2+ BR / 2 BA. Hardwood floors, living room with fireplace,
updated bathroom. Peek of Bay views. Garage, in-law unit with separate
entrance. Lovely garden/patio areas with fruit trees.
Deborah Riney
(510)339-8900

\$529,000
Oakland
Everything redone in '93 with permits – updated baths and to schools & reg. park. Cedar shingled 3,200 sq ft home includes 4 BR / 2.5 BA. Study, formal dining, family room adjoining kitchen. Level access and level fenced yard. Huge basement toolshed.

\$349,000
Piedmont Pines
The warmth of a Sierra lodge with the convenience of walking distance
to schools & reg. park. Cedar shingled 3,200 sq ft home includes 4 BR / 2.5 BA. Study, formal dining, family room adjoining kitchen. Level access and level fenced yard. Huge basement toolshed.

\$329,000
Lake Merritt
URBAN HI-RISE HAVEN! Huge 2 BR / 2 BA (1,600+ sq ft)! Extraordinary
closets. Very light, bright w/ house-like space. New paint & carpet. 24 hr
security/doorman. Roof garden with "pano. view". Quality, luxury, & value.
D.C. Hodges
(510)339-8900

Adams Point
OPEN SUN. 2-4:30
Adams Point's most exclusive complex! Sunny, open living room, master
bedroom with walk-in closet, updated kitchen and baths, den / home office and a
separate entrance. Open house this Sunday.
Ticky Friedman
(510)339-8900

\$749,500
Adams Point
OPEN SUN. 2-4:30
Adams Point's most exclusive complex! Sunny, open living room, master
bedroom with walk-in closet, updated kitchen and baths, den / home office and a
separate entrance. Open house this Sunday.
Ticky Friedman
(510)339-8900

\$749,500
Lower Oakmore
New listing! Light & bright well-kept home in a great
neighborhood. 2+ BR / 2 BA. Hardwood floors, living room with fireplace,
updated bathroom. Peek of Bay views. Garage, in-law unit with separate
entrance. Lovely garden/patio areas with fruit trees.
Deborah Riney
(510)339-8900

\$349,000
Piedmont Pines
The warmth of a Sierra lodge with the convenience of walking distance
to schools & reg. park. Cedar shingled 3,200 sq ft home includes 4 BR / 2.5 BA. Study, formal dining, family room adjoining kitchen. Level access and level fenced yard. Huge basement toolshed.

\$365,000
Lake Merritt
A picture postcard view! Spacious 2 BR / 2 BA co-op with sweeping view
of the lake and East Bay Hills. Amenities include 24 hour doorman service and secured parking. BART & downtown just blocks away.
Call for a private showing appointment.
Tom Erwin
(510)339-8900

Lake Merritt
Live in a landmark! This 1 BR / 1 BA condo on the 3rd floor has approx.
1,050 sq. ft. of living space. Amenities include wood-burning fireplace,
efficiency kitchen, formal dining room, and abundant closets. 24 hour
concierge/valet services are included. Call for a showing appointment.
Tom Erwin
(510)339-8900

\$295,000
Lake Merritt
Live in a landmark! This 1 BR / 1 BA condo on the 3rd floor has approx.
1,050 sq. ft. of living space. Amenities include wood-burning fireplace,
efficiency kitchen, formal dining room, and abundant closets. 24 hour
concierge/valet services are included. Call for a showing appointment.
Tom Erwin
(510)339-8900

\$935,000
Lafayette
Great Lafayette listing. 3 BR / 2 BA. Recently remodeled inside. Views,
pool, and wooded lot. New paint interior/exterior. Minutes to BART,
shopping and trails.
Bill Skarda
(925)314-1500

\$739,000
Moraga
Fabulous updated rancher style home in a very desirable area of Moraga
with wide lot and beautiful curb appeal. 3 large BR / 2 BA. Gleaming hardwood
floors add character and charm. Lg. kitchen with granite.

Kazie Afarsi
(925)935-8900

DANVILLE

925.314.1500

Relocation Services 1.800.708.7356

LAFAYETTE

925.935.9100

LIVERMORE

925.455.0505

MONTCLAIR

510.339.8900

Legacy First Financial 925.975.4300

Looking for a new home? Don't miss this week's Open Home Guide on page B15.



510.524.9888
www.berkhills.com

View Photo Tours on the Web

3921 Glen Park Rd., Oakland

Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00

New Listing! This craftsman bungalow in the desirable Glenview area is near the Express bus to S.F., freeway access, and Glenview & Lakeshore shopping. Very spacious 2 bdrms, plus bonus room, updated bath, living room w/fireplace and dining room w/built-in buffet. Pleasant garden w/fruit trees & sunny patio. Garage/workshop & basement storage.

Terese Ashman 524-9888 x11 \$469,000



1341 Washington Ave., Albany

Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00

New Listing! Classic two-bedroom split-level home near Solano shops. Wonderful details including original wooden windows, hardwood floors, dining room built-ins and stone fireplace. Large kitchen with breakfast nook.

Bill & Tracy 524-9888 x33 \$475,000



4293 Whittle Ave., Oakland

This cul-de-sac hideaway in the Lincoln Heights neighborhood offers a flexible floorplan and a yard that is a gardener's delight. The living room, dining room and kitchen have lovely hwd floors. The lower level features a one-unit and single car garage, both with indoor access to rest of house. Located not far from shops and freeway access to Hwys 13 & 580. The lot is 9168 sf.

Joan Brunswick 524-9888 x12 \$515,000

PENDING



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Oakland Listings

Crestmont Heights

Crocker Highlands



667 Via Rialto

1 bedrooms, 3 baths

Offered at \$925,000

Open Sunday 2-4:30

Coming Soon

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Direct: 510.612.0204

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COMING SOON!

ROCKRIDGE

Desirable Rockridge location. Four bedroom, 2.5 bath contemporary with remodeled kitchen. Dining and family open to a private patio for easy indoor/outdoor living & entertaining. Bay & view from the master bedroom suite. G floor plan. Sunny exposure, private se. Built in 1986.

Offered at \$815,000

For experience, diligence & professionalism,

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#1 agent Oakland/Piedmont office

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COLDWELL BANKER

COLDWELL BANKER

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

COLDWELL BANKER

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

BY APPOINTMENT

Berkeley \$7,750,000

Spring Mansion. 9 BR 4.5 BA This home is listed on the California Historical Registry. The estate includes second house w/ 3BR/3BA, 2 guest cottages & tennis court.

Kim & Barbara Marienthal
510.486.1495

Oakland \$1,800,000

Spectacular View. 3 BR 3.5 BA Elegant home with unobstructed 3 bridge view. Marbled jacuzzi in master bath. Incredible quality finishes throughout!

Barbara Marienthal
510.486.1495

Montclair \$749,000

3 BR 1.5 BA Great Salt Box Cape Cod; daub & wattle walls in DR, latched drs, beam ceilings, built-ins, usable yrd & patios, eat-in kit & bay window.

Ellen Lancaster 510.339.4700

Maxwell Park \$425,000

3 BR 1 BA Cute home w/spacious layout, formal dining rm, extra living rm., & breakfast nook in kitchen. HWF, FP, nice front & back yard area.

Reva Tolbert 510.339.4700

Millsmont \$389,950

2 BR 1 BA Cute cozy corner filled w/cheer. Formal dining & breakfast nook, fireplace, nice hardwood floor, attached garage & carport.

Reva Tolbert 510.339.4700

BY APPOINTMENT

Oakland \$299,000

Triplex near downtown Oakland. Live in 2 bedroom unit and rent out the other 2 units.

Terry Anthony 510.339.4700

Richmond \$285,000

Nice & neat Duplex. Two 2 bedroom, 1 bath units with spacious carport, fenced backyard, easy access to public transportation and Hwy.

Reva Tolbert 510.339.4700

OPEN HOMES

Berkeley \$1,495,000

2245 Glen Ave. Sun 2 - 4:30

4 BR 3 BA Redone from the foundation up. Craftsman ambiance, huge rear yard, min to Gourmet Ghetto.

Becky Andersen 510.339.4700

Berkeley \$499,000

1820 Derby St. Sun 2 - 4

2 BR 1 BA Craftsman brown shingle with original woodwork. Spacious loft, attic, and basement.

Maura Allen 510.486.1495

Berkeley \$485,000

1125 Channing Way Sun 2 - 5

3 BR 1+BA Handsome split-lvl craftsman. Hdwd flrs, frpl with big kitchen & yard. Move-in condition.

Maxine Malberg 510.486.1495

OPEN HOMES

Lake Merritt \$389,000

322 Hanover Ave. #508

Sun 1 - 4:30

2 BR 2 BA Just blocks to The Lake, this top floor condo has style: 2 master suites, FP, & a view!

Donna Conroy 510.339.4700

Montclair \$399,000

2 Cortez Ct. Sun 2 - 4:30

2 BR 1 BA Cute & affordable 1960s ranch. Freshly painted interior. Room to expand.

Carolyn Devol 510.339.4700

Berkeley \$399,000

1404 Henry St. Sun 2 - 4

2 BR 1 BA Lovely Victor 2+BR/1BA upper condo, light, hdwd flrs. & upgraded kitchen. N. Berkeley.

Carol Gamble 510.486.1495

Richmond View \$399,000

5845 Bernhard Ave. Sun 1 - 4

Sunny 3BR/1.5BA mid-cent hm has tranquil vns, lg eat-in kit, HWFFRPL, huge landscpd lot.

Gene Della Maggiora 510.486.1495

Laurel \$408,000

4121 Laurel Ave. Sun 1 - 4:30

2+ BR 1 BA Bay views, country kitchen w/eating area, WF, FP, home office, converted garage.

Too cute!

Donna Conroy 510.339.4700

OPEN HOMES

East Lake/New Chinatown \$498,000

1843 5th Ave. Sun 1 - 5

4 BR 2 BA Remod. bright duplex. HWF, lndr, yard, 1-car gar. Great owner occupancy/2 owners. VACANT.

Elena Stone 510.339.4700

Montclair \$599,000

6916 Snake Rd. Sun 1 - 4:30

3 BR 2 BA Wonderful contemporary Oakland view home. Conveniently located near Montclair and parks.

Dan Joy 510.339.4700

Oakland \$699,000

20 Kingwood Rd. Sun 2 - 4:30

3+ BR, 2.5 BA. Level in design, Bay views, Formal LR & DR, updated kitchen.

Jeffrey Neideman 510.339.4700

Orinda \$879,950

202 The Knoll Sun 1 - 4

2+BR 2.5BA Stunning Contemporary in Orinda Woods. Dramatic kitchen/fam rm, updated baths.

George Karsant 510.339.4700

Rockridge (Upper) \$995,000

6000 Buena Vista Ave. Sun 2 - 5

Unique 1993 custom built 3+BR, 2+BA. Mediterranean flair. Hi ceiling LR, FDR, S. Bay Vu.

Ruby Ng 510.339.4700

LOTS

Oakland Hills \$499,000

3 lots for sale adjacent to the Seller will sell together or separately. 1.7 million for all.

David Eckert 510.339.4700

Hayward \$179,000

University Heights. Over-size Bay view lot! Great frontage, build your dream home. Pr.

secluded setting.

David Eckert 510.339.4700

Hayward \$179,000

Residential lot w/Bay views mostly level.

Nori Robinson 510.339.4700

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1.888.281.9100 (Berkeley)

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House hunting this weekend? Turn to Hills Newspapers Real Estate & Home section first

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THREE EXCELLENT INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

OPEN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, FROM 2:00-4:00PM

655 MACARTHUR
LAKE MERRITT DISTRICT
FOUR UNIT \$460,0001410 MAGNOLIA ST
WEST OAKLAND
SIX UNIT \$525,0003006 E 17TH STREET
FRUITVALE DISTRICT
SIX UNIT \$550,000

In a great location this building offers three two-story, 2 bedroom, 2-bath townhouse units and one 3-bedroom, 2 bath penthouse unit.

- Walk to Lake Merritt
- Walk to shops and dining
- Secure lobby with elevator
- Over 5,000 sq.ft. living space
- Up and coming neighborhood
- Access to BART and parks
- Some units remodeled
- All separate meters

Between downtown, the IKEA corridor and with great access to all freeways, this DeCo building features six spacious 1-bedroom, 1-bath units.

- Refurbished electrical
- Refreshed heating
- Off-street parking
- Some new kitchens

Surrounded by fresh landscaping and featuring new roof, porch, and paint, this early Edwardian six-unit building features two 1-bedroom units and four studios.

- Open weekends. Credit problems OK.
- "Apply online" www.superior-mtg.net
- Rates and Fees Posted Online



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www.richestproperties.com

Market Indicator*

Last wk This wk

5,500 5,500

CONTRA COSTA TIMES MORTGAGE GUIDE

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DAVID RATOOSH / KEITH CARROLL - BROKER

528-9292

REALTORS

521-8181

523-1010



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



OPEN SUNDAY 2-4

1437 MORTON ST. #F, ALAMEDA, CA
UNIT 2: large bedrooms w/ large closets, large living room w/ gas fireplace, parking and storage unit. Curr. price \$269,000. Darlene Gardner, 510-523-7723

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4



OPEN SUNDAY 2-4

965 SHOREPOINT CT. #114, ALAMEDA SHORES Just a block from the beach as Great starter home. 1 bedroom condo is level w/ 2 parking spaces. \$225,500. Jeff Sebach, 510-747-1170

3211-3215 FERNSIDE BLVD., ALAMEDA, CA
UNIQUE PROPERTY Large building is located on the Estuary. East is part of great neighborhood with good schools to freeway. \$580,000 Call Mark Carter, 510-523-77521326 CARRISON ST., BERKELEY, CA
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SPORTS

• Friday, February 6, 2004 •

Section C

Berkeley can't take advantage of chances

PREP GIRLS SOCCER

Highlanders had until Lubin tried a corner kick at 38 minutes.

For Berkeley, Kira Mandella passed to Kristina Hill in front of the Piedmont goal and Hall pushed the shot just past the right side of the goal in the fourth minute. Laura Rose had an opportunity two minutes later that was denied and Hall had a shot blocked by Piedmont's Lauren Van Maren at eight minutes.

The Yellow Jackets' best chance in the second half came at 61 minutes when Piedmont goalkeeper Rosie Aguilera smothered an open shot by Hall just in front of the Highlanders' goal.

Katie Bowen was able to get a shot at Dale at 42 minutes, but the Yellow Jackets' goalkeeper

smothered it.

"Our defense was very good," Berkeley coach Suzanne Sillett said. "I don't think they (the Highlanders) got a shot on frame all day. On offense we missed a lot of chances, but their defense was also very good."

The Yellow Jackets got two saves from goalkeeper Dale. Berkeley (15-4-1) forced Aguilera to make nine saves for Piedmont (14-3-3).

Salesian 3, St. Mary's 1: Andrea Salvador scored two goals as the Chieftains beat the host Panthers in BSAL play last Friday.

Salvador opened the scoring for the Chieftains (14-1-2, 12-1-1 BSAL) with a goal in the fourth minute. Kelsey Bethel then made it 2-0 with a goal four minutes later.

Laura Detmer put the Panthers (6-10-1, 4-8-0) on the board,

to cut the lead to 2-1 at the half. Salvador put the game away with her second goal in 41st minute.

BOYS SOCCER

St. Mary's 1, Salesian 0: The Hadley brothers connected for the only goal of this Bay Shore Athlete League contest in Richmond last Friday. Miles Hadley, a freshman midfielder, slotted a pass to Jason Hadley, a senior forward, who deposited the ball near the far post the 31-minute mark.

The Panthers improved to 11-4-2, 9-1-2 BSAL. Salesian is 7-6-1 in BSAL play.

Albany 3, St. Joseph 2: Bernardo Simonard took a ricochet off the crossbar and deposited the ball into the net in the final minutes of the game for the winning goal last Friday. Teammate Spenser Dill added two goals for visiting Albany (14-4-1, 11-2 BSAL). St. Joseph is 3-7-1 BSAL.



GREGORY URQUHAGA/STAFF

BERKELEY HIGH'S Kristina Hill, left, and Molly McClary of Piedmont try to get control of the ball during their match that ended in a 0-0 tie.

CAL NOTEBOOK

CCAL will use tiebreaker

By Phil Jensen

STAFF WRITER

THE ALAMEDA CONTRA Costa Athletic League has a new tiebreaker to decide the league's automatic bid to the North Coast in playoffs in all team sports except for football, and already been used once this year.

The first two steps in the tiebreaker system do not resolve the tie, a one-game will be used if time permits and a facility is available outside the automatic bid to CCSL playoffs. Both teams remain co-champions of ACCAL.

There was a different third tiebreaker used the last three years said ACCAL commissar Bill Jones.

The third step was tiebreaker numbers drawn equally out of the hat," Jones said. "This new ruling was a proposal by the athletic director. As much as possible, they like things decided on the spot of play."

The new tiebreaker was adopted by the ACCAL Board of Directors last April. It was used in girls tennis this season. It edged Berkeley 4-3 in a tiebreaker on Nov. 6 to earn the

See ACCAL, Page 2

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL



D.E. LEDESMA/STAFF

BERKELEY HIGH'S Dior Lowhorn, left, a transfer from Archbishop Riordan-San Francisco, has averaged a team-high 24.6 points a game.

Yellow Jackets are on a mission

A tough loss in the CIF

semifinals inspires
Berkeley to a hot start in
the ACCAL

By Orlando Molina

STAFF WRITER

Still haunted by thoughts of last year's heartbreaking loss in the California Interscholastic Federation Division I semifinal, the Berkeley High School boys basketball team is determined to show the competition what the Yellow Jackets can really do.

So far that determination has translated into a 7-0 Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League record as they enter the second half of the league season.

"We were just one shot away from the NorCal Division I championship," Yellow Jackets coach Mike Gragnani said referring to the team's NorCal semifinals match up with Oakland Tech.

The Yellow Jackets haven't had to change a whole lot with the exception of getting used to the fact that there's plenty of experience on the roster.

The team is aided by four seniors in Burl, Jason Maples, Jack McSweeney and Kevin Mc-

Glothen, who started the week with a combined 452 points and have pleased Gragnani with their collective leadership and influence on younger players.

"We have plenty of experienced vets on the team. I know what to expect and they tutor and keep the young players grounded," Gragnani said.

But the big difference has been Dior Lowhorn, a transfer out of Archbishop Riordan-San Francisco.

Lowhorn, a 6-foot-6 center, has made quite an impression, placing second in the region in scoring with a 24.6 points per game average at the start of the week.

"He's a huge boost and a dominant player. He's scratching the surface of how good he'll be," Gragnani said.

"He's the centerpiece of our offense," added Burl. "Nobody can stop him five feet from the basket to the low post."

Berkeley has not been without its obstacles.

Despite their outstanding record and lopsided scores against league opponents, the Yellow Jackets needed to work out team chemistry and consistency on defense early in the season.

The team is not a particularly close one off the court, said Burl, but on the hard wood the team is always on the same page. Even Lowhorn needed some time to work out the kinks of joining a new system, and Burl said he's adjusted extremely well, noting a vast improvement in his play since game one.

Defensively Gragnani called the team's efforts "steaky," recalling several instances where the Yellow Jackets failed to protect a big lead through the half. This criticism came despite the team outscoring its last four op-

See BERKELEY, Page 2

St. Mary's loses critical BSAL showdown

By Chace Bryson

STAFF WRITER

Had the Salesian High School boys basketball team lost its game against St. Mary's on Saturday night, it would have been easy to point to its free-throw shooting as one of the reasons.

That is until David Singleton and Kendell McCree each knocked down a pair of free throws inside the final 16 seconds to help secure the Chieftains' 64-62 Bay Shore Athletic League victory at Contra Costa College in San Pablo.

"We finally got it into the hands of the right people," Salesian coach Bill Mellis said of his team's free throw shooting.

"Those two guys are good free-throw shooters and they made it count."

The Chieftains (12-5, 4-1 BSAL) were just 3-for-12 from the line before Singleton and McCree combined to sink four straight.

St. Mary's (16-5, 5-1) trailed by as many as 11 points in the second half and was down by 10 early in the fourth quarter.

Larry Gurganious, who scored 24 points through the first three quarters, was held without a point in the final eight minutes

as the Panthers made their big push behind the scoring of Edward Wright.

Wright scored 13 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter and his slam dunk with 1:05 remaining in the game brought St. Mary's within 60-59. The Panthers then got a defensive stop and called timeout with 29 seconds to go in the game and 18 seconds left on the shot clock.

Out of the timeout, the Panthers cleared out for Gurganious, who drove past his man but couldn't convert his attempt at a

See ST. MARY'S, Page 2



DOUG DURAN/STAFF
ST. MARY'S Jordan Thurston, right, tries to get around Salesian's Eric Shelton.



WIN CURRIER

Lewis was one of the great ones

IT WON'T BE any different this year. Regardless of how the Boston Red Sox fare in the 2004 baseball season, we'll hear references to "The Curse of the Bambino."

We don't hear or read all that much about the pre-curse era when the Red Sox actually won a World Series.

Or when someone was called on to pinch hit for Babe Ruth ... the "Bambino" who was a star Red Sox pitcher.

Or of the Alamedan who played a key role in that era.

His name was George Edward Lewis, nicknamed (for obscure reasons) "Duffy."

Lewis was the first Alamedan (although he was born in San Francisco, he grew up in Alameda) to reach the major leagues. He is also one of the most forgotten ones when folks rattle off lists of local boys who made good in baseball.

He's also the answer to a trivia question: Who was the first man to pinch hit for Babe Ruth?

Researching something totally unrelated to Lewis in the Alameda Free Public Library, an item jumped out (not literally, of course) announcing a 1947 testimonial dinner honoring Duffy Lewis that was scheduled in Boston. It added that an Alameda committee was raising money for a gift of some sort. What it was, by the way, defies research, but based on the committee membership, it must have been something impressive.

Lewis, who was born April 18, 1888, was 59 at the time and would live to 91. He died in Salem, N.H., June 17, 1979.

Dedicated baseball fans have heard of Coogan's Bluff at New York's Polo Grounds. Not all that many have heard of "Duffy's Cliff," which was a landmark in Fenway Park's left field before the fabled "Green Monster."

The cliff was Duffy Lewis' domain. It was also a curse for visiting teams, who probably had another name for this approximately 15-foot incline (various sources list the slope at heights ranging from 10-15 feet on which Lewis and wife alone thrived).

Joe Kaney, who had a gas station at Oak Street and Central Avenue (where a video store now shares space with a parking lot), received a letter announcing the testimonial set for Sept. 22, 1947, at Boston's Statler Hotel ballroom.

Lewis was part of a great — if not, the best ever — defensive outfield with Tris Speaker in center and Harry Hooper in right.

Enclosed in the letter signed by Ralph "Babe" Rubenstein was a clipping of a column

See CURRIER, Page 2

El Cerrito takes control of ACCAL

By Kirby Kleiman

STAFF WRITER

El Cerrito High School's girls basketball team spent the first half shutting down Pinole Valley's Jontelle Smith. In the second half, it clamped down on the entire Spartans team.

The Gauchos gained sole possession of first place in the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League by beating Pinole Valley 58-44 Friday night, running their record to 14-4, 6-0 in league.

El Cerrito coach Ron Williams said his squad spent the week of practice getting focused on "going after the shooter." In this case, that meant Spartans guard Smith, who came into the game with the region's highest scoring average of 20.5 points per game.

In the first half, the Gauchos used three players to keep Smith from getting a good shot. Her 3-point shot with six minutes to go in the second quarter was her

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

only bucket of the half.

By that time, El Cerrito had just completed a 13-0 run and held a 22-10 lead, one it never relinquished.

The host Gauchos used a balanced offensive attack, with all of their starters scoring at least eight points. Senior guard Marquette Green led the Gauchos with 13 points, five assists and four steals. Green also hounded Smith, picking up four fouls early, but avoided the fifth and disqualifying infraction.

With a 32-24 halftime lead, El Cerrito continued to make life miserable for Smith and the rest of the Spartans. Pinole Valley made only two shots from the field in the game's final two quarters.

After Smith converted her sec-

ond 3-point shot with 2:15 left in the third quarter, the Spartans didn't sink another field goal for the rest of the game.

El Cerrito was up only 43-35 at the end of three quarters, however, because it kept putting Pinole Valley on the free-throw line. Smith made 11 of 13 free throws, and the Spartans managed to stay in the game with an impressive 24-for-28 night at the line.

The Gauchos extended their lead to 50-37 when Green pulled up and hit a 3. Pinole Valley (13-7, 5-1) could only foul, and watch its ACCAL rival calmly sink six of its last eight free throws to clinch the win.

Williams said it was a big win for his team.

"We really wanted this one," he said. "They are a dangerous team, and we know what Jontelle (Smith) can do. It was an excellent showing by our seniors.

They kept their cool, they didn't panic. That's what senior leadership can do."

Smith led all scorers with 17 points.

Berkeley 53, Reno 44: It was a happy bus ride home for the Yellow Jackets, who outscored the Huskies 26-11 in the fourth quarter to pull away in a non-league contest on Saturday.

Berkeley (12-8) entered the fourth quarter trailing 33-27 but turned up the intensity over the final eight minutes against Reno (15-7).

"That's the second year we've gone up there, (4,500)-feet elevation, and they tire out at the end of the game," Berkeley coach Gene Nakamura said. "It seemed like we were the ones with energy at the end and not the home team."

Danesh Wright scored 16 points for the Yellow Jackets.



EL CERRITO'S Jordan McCormick, left, contends with Pinole Valley's defensive pressure.

Currier

FROM PAGE 1

about the event written by Dave Egan of the Boston Daily Record and the suggestion that Lewis' fellow-Alamedans "might like to contribute."

Kane then headed a committee, including W.W. Ward (the Bill Ward who had an Associated gas station at Webb and Park and was perennial chairman of the Alameda Boosters) and John G. "Doc" Croll. Early contributors included, in addition to the committee, Ollie Fisher (whose J.J. Krieg girls softball team won the national championship — the first championship west of the Mississippi), Tony Finocchio (who owned the LaFiesta lounge in both of its Webster Street locations, was a Booster leader and later owner of the Redding club in the Far West League), Hugh Gallagher (Smiley & Gallagher Mortuary, "Porky" Ryan, Al Pola, Harry French, Ray French and Joe Kaney Jr.).

Lewis had been quoted in his playing days as saying he experimented with the incline, learning how to play the slope correctly and that "you had to come down running with runners on base."

The left-hander was also famous for his "clothesline throws" and it was said that to be hit by one of his throws would be very hazardous.

Lewis joined the Red Sox in 1910 and batted a career-high .307 in 1911. He also hit .444 in the 1915 World Series, won by the Red Sox four games to one over the Phillies.

He also was a model of consistency.

The 5-foot-10½, 165-pound Lewis, whose official major-league debut is listed as April 16, 1910, never batted below .268 until closing his major league career with a .186 average in 27 games in 1921. His 11-year career included 1,459 games with 5,351 at-bats and a .289 lifetime average. He hit 38 home runs, 68 triples, 289 doubles, batted in 793 runs and stole 113 bases ... all this with a lifetime fielding average of .959.

Lewis was sent in 1919 to the Yankees in a seven-player deal and after two seasons there, was traded to Washington where his 11 year major league player career (1910-1917, 1919-1921) ended. After opening the 1921 season with Washington, Lewis became a manager in the Pacific Coast League before returning to Boston with the National League Braves, for whom he served as traveling secretary from 1935-61.

Lewis' major league playing career was over, but not his baseball career. The Pacific Coast League, then as now, started later (and then played more games) than the majors. So in 1921 he became player manager of the Salt Lake City team, hit .403 in 162 games and, according to the Bill

O'Neal book "The Pacific Coast League 1903-1988," "played spectacularly."

Lewis, incidentally, was not the only Alamedan to win a PCL batting championship. Smed Jolley, who lived in Alameda most of his adult life and was a regular in Alameda Winter League baseball, won the batting championship in 1927 and 1928 playing for the San Francisco Seals and in 1938 playing for the Hollywood Stars.

In the Richard Leutzing book, "Lefty O'Doul, The Legend Baseball Nearly Forgot," is the story about O'Doul pitching for the Salt Lake City Bees and, after a rival hit a home run, O'Doul went to manager Lewis and said he wanted to be an outfielder. "You don't know how to play the outfield," Lewis said. "I'll learn," O'Doul snapped.

O'Doul had his chance when the wife of a teammate became ill and the player had to leave the game. O'Doul replaced him in the outfield and hit so well the other player never regained his spot.

The book has another Lewis reference. Baseball historian Fred Loeb wrote (about the Yankees), "As in 1919, the writers, almost to a man urged a place for O'Doul in the lineup. I recall I urged an outfield of Duffy Lewis in left, O'Doul in center and Ruth in right."

In 1922, Lewis hit .362 with 20 home runs and 108 RBI. In the 1924 season, Lewis won the batting championship with a .392 average, including 28 home runs. The team batting average in the light air of Salt Lake City's Bonneville Park was a lofty .327. Salt Lake City was in the PCL from 1915-25, then returned in 1958.

Egan's column indicated Lewis' tremendous popularity in Boston, saying of the testimonial committee members, "the most violent of the left wingers held out bitterly for the spacious Boston Common.

The moderates were willing to settle for the Boston Garden. But in the end, the extreme reactionaries won out and so the grand ballroom of the Hotel Statler was chosen ... where Lewis will be honored by his friends. And I tell 'em they'll have to put tables out on the sidewalk and stretching down the street."

Egan went on to note, "Duff now is 59 years old and has spent exactly 59 years making friends. It is a remarkable tribute to him as a person that he will be honored a full 30 years after he heroed his way across the headlines of the nation."

Egan wrote that he was just a kid "when he (Lewis) doubled across the run for the Red Sox that gave Smoky Joe Wood a 1-0 victory over Walter Johnson in the most famous pitching duel of all the years of baseball." Egan also recalled Lewis batting .444 in the 1915 Series "to lead one of the great teams of all time to victory."

It was noted that Lewis "was

part of the greatest outfield that ever roamed the range, the outfield of Lewis and Speaker and Hooper, which, 30 years later, still serves as the standard by which all outfields are measured.

"They will be together again, the three of them, when the banquet board groans at the Statler. Duff is bald by now, Speaker is gray and handsome. And of Hooper, who would not know for I have never seen him. But once they were young, and in their youth they were invincible and it's regrettable that some of us were born too late to have seen them."

It goes on that Lewis was not being given the testimonial "because he busted up a pitching duel 34 years ago or starred in the succession of World Series which made Boston the greatest little ball town in the nation, or went broke with many another in the stock market crash, or went broker still when his home in California burned down with all his World Series trophies and all his neckties therein, or is today the traveling secretary of the Braves.

"There are many men who starred in the field of sports. There are many men who have had personal misfortunes, there are many men who are traveling secretaries. But there is only one Duffy Lewis. God was having a good day when He made him. And that is the reason for this affair."

Continuing, Egan wrote that Duff "has and always will have the delight of a child in bright colors. A drab, ordinary vest would not do him back when he was a champion among champions. No, he'd lean back in a chair in the sunny evening in front of Putnam's Hotel and he'd be wearing a black velvet vest, and simple ordinary buttons would not do for such an elegant vest, he'd have diamonds gleaming there."

"To this day he loves howlers of neckties, second only to Eleanor, his wife, and there are times when she is not sure that she doesn't run second. They are all handmade. They are all weirdly wonderful. They are all inscribed, 'Made especially for Duffy Lewis,' and he must have more than 500 of them ... and when he carefully chooses one and gives it to a fellow, then the fellow understands that he has been taken into Duffy's vast heart and is a friend forever more."

Egan, by the way, was given three, which he (Egan) "treasures" and "like everybody else who knows him, I treasure the man who gave them."

He wrote that "in the course of a lifetime (Lewis) has been mainly devoted to just being a good, decent, warm-hearted member of the human race. No man ever more fully deserved a testimonial than plain and modest George (Duffy) Lewis."

Alameda can be justifiably proud of his legacy, of which is too little known.

It was noted that Lewis "was

Berkeley

FROM PAGE 1

ponents 332-188. Yet Gragnani remains a stickler on details and isn't shy about challenging his team if he feels the effort isn't

there.

"We're going in streaks. I'm looking to solidify the concept of one defensive unit and have them work with synergy," he said. I know they're capable of doing it."

Having dominated the ACCAL midway through the season, the

Yellow Jackets are aware bull's eye on their backs much bigger. But the Gragnani little reason as he has more than enough in his players to get the

"I knew we'd be good, good, was the question

St. Mary's

FROM PAGE 1

reverse layup. Salesian's Marcus Payne cleared the rebound and got it to Singleton, who was fouled with 15.5 seconds remaining.

Singleton's two free throws made it 62-59 and forced St. Mary's Jordan Thurston to put up a 3-point attempt, which fell short and was rebounded by McCree. McCree then hit his two free throws for a 64-59 advantage with 6.5 seconds left.

Thurston hit a 3-pointer with 1.2 seconds left, but the Panthers were out of timeouts and could not stop the clock. Salesian students rushed the floor in cele-

bration.

"It was a big game and we still had opportunities to win it," St. Mary's coach Manny Nodar said. "We have nothing to be ashamed of."

The Chieftains had lost their last eight matchups against St. Mary's, including playoff games. Salesian last beat the Panthers in a league playoff on Feb. 26, 2000. It had not won a regular-season game against St. Mary's since Jan. 22, 1999.

Pinoe Valley 57, El Cerrito 56: John Smith scored 24 points and John Bryant scored 20, including the game-winner, as the Spartans outlasted the visiting Gauchos in Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League play last Friday.

The Spartans (14-5 CAL) trailed throughout the game but managed to close. With 12 seconds remaining, Pinoe Valley's Matt Davis missed a

With time running out, Matt Davis missed a shot, but Bryant tipped the ball into the basket and banked home a 3-point shot to give the Spartans the win.

It was almost enough for Patrick Mitchell to give Pinoe Valley (13-6, 4-3) the win.

Time out, however, he took

Singleton's two free throws made it 62-59 and forced St. Mary's Jordan Thurston to put up a 3-point attempt, which fell short and was rebounded by McCree. McCree then hit his two free throws for a 64-59 advantage with 6.5 seconds left.

Thurston hit a 3-pointer with 1.2 seconds left, but the Panthers were out of timeouts and could not stop the clock. Salesian students rushed the floor in celebration.

ACCAL

FROM PAGE 1

NCS team automatic berth after both teams finished the ACCAL regular season with 7-1 records.

THE RISE OF WENDELL MCKINES

Richmond's super freshman forward/center has been racking up some impressive numbers this league season. Entering this week's action, McKines has scored 19 points or more in every ACCAL game for Richmond and has topped 30 points in six of the seven games. The only game he didn't score 30 points was against league-leader Berkeley. He is averaging 33.4 points per game in the league season, including a 40-point, 24 rebound effort in Richmond's 72-62 win over Encinal on Jan. 27 and 13 blocks in the Oilers' 79-71 victory over Alameda on Jan. 30.

CLOSE RACE: One of the

close league races this winter season is in girls basketball, where five teams were within three games of the lead entering play this week. El Cerrito was 6-0 in league action, but right behind the Gauchos were Pinole Valley (5-1) and Hercules, Encinal and Alameda, all with 3-3 records.

An interesting matchup tonight is Alameda at Pinole Valley. On Tuesday, Hercules hosts El Cerrito and Pinole Valley visits Encinal in two more games that could have an impact on the ACCAL race.

BERKELEY SOCCER FORFEIT

The ACCAL Board of Managers decided Tuesday that Berkeley's boys soccer team will forfeit its final two league games and made sanctions against the program, according to ACCAL commissioner Bill Jones.

Berkeley has played 24 games, the maximum allowed by North Coast Section rules, after Tuesday's 3-2 loss to

Alameda. There are two games remaining on its schedule.

Jones said the forfeit count against Berkeley is 10, record, but will not count overall games played due to NCS rules, adding the Berkeley is still eligible for NCS postseason play.

The board of managers voted to render sanctions, including a formal letter from the league president, Bill Sonnenman, of Encinal, Jones said.

The other sanctions included that Berkeley would be suspended by two games by two games, will play both its scheduled league games next season against De Anza and Foothills at those schools, Jones said.

The Berkeley representatives indicated the school may take other actions against the boys' program, Jones said.

the standings.

According to Karnsoung, only two players from his roster of 15 attended the Jan. 29 practice. The poor turnout irritated the Eagles skipper to the point that he sought to forfeit the match the next day as a punishment.

He consulted with Kennedy athletic director Darryl Creighton, but was overruled because he felt the procedures for the forfeit was more trouble

than it was worth.

"He said just play the game and we'll punish them day," Karnsoung said.

The Eagles played as scheduled and the results were pleasantly surprising.

The first half had been trading goals for tie at the half. But in the second, it was all Kennedy. The Eagles posted three unanswered goals.

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PLAYING

we capsule reviews of movies at-area theaters. Reviewers Robert W. F. Pois, Times; Robert W. F. Pois, David Hiltbrand, Ria and Carrie Richey, Knight Newspapers; Glenn Lovell, San Jose Mercury News; David Germain, Christy David Nuckles, Associated Press; Dave Kelt, Elvis Mitchell, A.O. Scott, New York Times; Jami Bernard, Mathews, New York Daily News; Flowers, South Florida Sun-Sentinel; Evan Henerson, Bob, Glenn Whipp, Los Angeles Times; Manuela Dargis, Kevin Nancy Churnin, Chris Vogna, Dallas Morning News; Wunch, Roger Moore, Orlando Sentinel; Joe Batake, Sacramento Bee, Boston Globe; Ann Horn, Stephen Hunter, Deseret News, Washington Post.

C: LIFE AND DEATH OF A SERIAL KILLER

Nick Broadfield directs this absorbing documentary, which chronicles the courtroom jargons that led up to the Florida trial of Alleen Wuornos two years ago. It's the sequel to his '92 expose *"Aileen"*. The *Selling of a Serial Killer*, it presents itself as an anguished account of capital punishment, especially the execution of people who are insane. Although Wuornos is easily buoyant throughout much of her fury and despair bottomless. — S. Holden. (Not rated; 1 hour, 29 minutes. B)

WINGED POLLY: Ben Stiller, Sean, has had a bad time in a bathhouse we watch, grossed out, but, at his agony. He also gets off with his new wife (Debra Messing) runs off with a scuba instructor during their honeymoon, but he leaves with a flake named Polly (Perry). They're completely fed up with each other, but the movie struggled to convince us of their mutual flounders in the attempt. It's admirable as usual, but it's supplied by writer/director Hamburg, who co-authored the better *"Meet the Parents,"* isn't enough for her. In contrast, Hamburg's bathroom humor seems a match for Stiller's limitations. (PG-13; sexual content, language, some drug scenes) 1 hour, 30 minutes. C+

BARBARIAN INVASIONS: A foul comic drama about attempting to make sense of one's life under director Denys Arcand's biting wit. Much of the energy comes from Remy Girard, a slybaric professor now dying of an unnamed disease in a hellishly overcrowded Montreal hospital. Remy rails against an ex-wife, he seeseth about humanism; but most of all, he is at his wit's end about his son Sébastien (Stephane Rousseau). This is the sequel to Arcand's "The Decline of the American Empire." — K. Turan. (R; language, sexual dialogue and drug content) 1 hour, 39 minutes. B+

TO BE AND TO HAVE: Filmmaker Nicolas Philibert set up camp in a tiny one-room school in rural France, documenting two seasons in the lives of students ages 3 to 11. He hoped to make a film about the disappearing tradition of single-class schools in France, this one located in a mountainous area where most youngsters are children of farmers. Like "Spellbound," this documentary knows its subjects intimately, so that by the end, their triumphs and setbacks carry real emotional weight. — A. Horowitz. (Not rated; in French with English subtitles) 1 hour, 44 minutes. A-

THE BIG BOUNCE

There's no bounce to this lame Elmore Leonard adaptation. Instead, it meanders, drifts and then screeches to an abrupt halt. Owen Wilson plays a lovable petty thief who gets embroiled in some island politics while being a surf bum in Hawaii, but even his charms aren't enough to save this bomb. With Morgan Freeman, Gary Sinise and Bebe Neuwirth, who must have signed on to a better script. — M. Pois. (PG-13; sexual content and nudity, violence and language.) 1 hour, 28 minutes. D

BIG FISH: The mawkish soul of a male "Beaches," Tim Burton's quirky style and an ending sure to prompt tears, but mostly it's a father-son tale

OPENING TODAY

"BARBERSHOP 2: BACK IN BUSINESS" (PG-13)

There's fresh trouble in Calvin's South Side barbershop as the Starbucks of barbershops moves into the neighborhood.

CATCH THAT KID" (PG) In order to raise money for an operation for her paralyzed father, a young girl persuades two friends to help her rob a bank.

CITY OF GOD" (R) A re-release of the Brazilian film about street gangs in the slums of Rio, from Oscar-nominated director Fernando Meirelles.

MIRACLE" (PG) The story of the 1980 U.S. Olympic ice hockey team, which miraculously beat the Soviet team. Star-

ring Kurt Russell as coach Herb Brooks.

"MY ARCHITECT" (NR)

A documentary about architect Louis Kahn, directed by his son Nathaniel, who hoped to get to know his famous father better through making the film.

"SECRET THINGS" (NR)

Two penniless but beautiful young women set out to manipulate men in order to improve their social standing. In French with English subtitles.

"TOUCHING THE VOID" (NR)

The true story of a pair of young mountain climbers who survived against all odds during a Peruvian expedition in 1985. Features interviews and re-creations.

(Albert Finney and Billy Crudup) told in flashback as the dad recounts his tall tales. Ewan McGregor stars in those highly stylized scenes. Well-crafted, but ultimately curiously hollow. — M. Pois. (PG-13; fight scene, some nude images, a suggestive reference.) 1 hour, 50 minutes. B-

"THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT": What's sleazy, features the untalented Ashton Kutcher and isn't a supermarket tabloid? This awful movie, about a college student who travels back in time through gloriously easy means to try to fix the traumas of his youth. Mostly he wants to save his childhood sweetheart (Amy Smart). Every time he goes back, he seems to make things worse. The movie displays an unhealthy interest in animal torture and kiddie porn. Kutcher should stick to comedy. — M. Pois. (R; violence, sexual content, language and brief drug use.) 1 hour, 53 minutes. D+

"CALENDAR GIRLS": This chick-flick variant on "The Full Monty" is pat, contrived and entirely predictable. The comedy takes a true story about a women's club that disbanded for charity and turns it into a briefly disarming face about friendship, celebrity and latent exhibitionism. Helen Mirren and Julie Walters head the good-sport ensemble. — G. Lovell. (PG-13; slight profanity, peek-a-boob nudity.) 1 hour, 48 minutes. C

"CHASING LIBERTY": Given the absence of a monarchy, the first daughter will have to serve Hollywood's princess fantasies. In this case, she's a girl dying for some freedom, played by pop star Mandy Moore. She sneaks off during a trip to Prague, and followed by a handsome young Secret Service agent, flies off to Venice, Austria and eventually, Ger-

many. The picture is modeled on a "Roman Holiday"-like escape, but the chemistry between Moore and her swain, the dashing Matthew Goode, is lacking. It's all just a bit too harmless, and the generally appealing Moore is not at her strongest. — M. Pois. (PG-13; sexual content and brief nudity.) 1 hour, 51 minutes. C

"COLD MOUNTAIN": Early buzz made it sound like a romance, but Anthony Minghella's ("The Talented Mr. Ripley") film is more a Civil War story, about the resilience of the American spirit and love of home.

Based on the best-selling novel, it stars Jude Law as a war deserter

slogging his way back to his lady love (Nicole Kidman), a well-bred Southern flower ill-equipped to survive. Renée Zellweger steals the show as a spiffling who helps save the day. — M. Pois. (R; violence, sexuality.) 2 hours, 33 minutes. B

"THE COMPANY": Robert Altman's likable new film follows a Chicago-based dance troupe through a few months of its season. The plot allows us to slip behind the scenes and hear the troupe's gossip, particularly news about the recent flameout in the love life of Ry (Neva Campbell). Much of the movie is about life among the insiders, and the compact the dancers make with loneliness and sacrifice, a contrast to the lowness of the choreography. A great deal of the film's appeal is supplied by the company's gentle, magnetic artistic director, played by Malcolm McDowell

— E. Mitchell. (PG-13; strong language, drinking and sexuality.) 1 hour, 52 minutes. B-

"THE COOLER": William H. Macy stars as a perpetual loser hired by an old-time Vegas-type casino boss (the terrific Alec Baldwin) to dampen the luck of others. Trouble is, the "cooler's" luck starts to turn. The film

has a few weak notes, but also an offbeat glee. — M. Pois. (R; strong sexuality, violence, language, some drug use.) 1 hour, 41 minutes. B

"THE FOG OF WAR": Errol Morris' Oscar-nominated documentary about the life lessons learned by Robert S. McNamara, former secretary of Defense for JFK and LBJ, from his involvement in World War II and the Vietnam War. Bogs more questions than answers, and don't expect an apology from McNamara, who is still cagey. Make no mistake: He's in charge, not Morris. But the film is of obvious interest, and in these uncertain times, the lessons McNamara gleaned in hindsight are of piercing relevance. — M. Pois. (PG-13; some scenes of violence.) 1 hour, 46 minutes. B+

"GIRL WITH A PEARL EARRING": An art history mystery about the imagined origins of a painting by 17th-century Dutch master Vermeer, the titular "Girl With a Pearl Earring." Based on the novel by Tracy Chevalier, the film suggests that the unknown model was a maid in the Vermeer household, a lovely young thing named Griet (Scarlett Johansson) whom the married Vermeer (Colin Firth) had some deep connection with. Composed of many moments of the two staring silently at each other, the movie is as beautiful to look at as a Vermeer, thanks to cinematographer Eduardo Serra, but it is also pretentious and swill. — M. Pois. (PG-13; intense battle sequences, frightening images.) 3 hours, 21 minutes. A

"THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING": Director Peter Jackson's magnificent finale to the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy reminds us of the magic possible in filmmaking. The journey into Mordor continues, simultaneously with the defense of Gondor against the Orc army. Standout performances include Sean Astin as Samwise Gamgee, Miranda Otto's woman warrior and Viggo Mortensen as Aragorn, whose rallying cry in battle makes you want to throw down your popcorn, pick up a sword and rush the screen to help. An epic, a masterpiece, a treasure. — M. Pois. (PG-13; intense battle sequences, frightening images.) 3 hours, 21 minutes. A

"LOST IN TRANSLATION": Everything about writer-director Sofia Coppola's wry and wistful film is lovely, and that includes, of all things, the presence and performance of Bill Murray. He plays an aging American actor in Tokyo to film commercials for a Japanese whiskey. Bored, depressed about his lousy marriage and jet-lagged, he meets a young American woman (Scarlett Johansson) who has accompanied her photographer husband (Giovanni Ribisi) to Japan. They end up wandering Tokyo together, developing a fleeting but intense friendship. Murray is at his absolute best, and Coppola proves she's a director to watch. Simple and small, but this film has a special shimmer about it. — M. Pois. (R; some sexual content.) 1 hour, 35 minutes. A

"MASTER AND COMMANDER: THE FAR SIDE OF THE WORLD": From director Peter Weir, a beautiful and brawny rendition of Patrick O'Brian's tales of friendship and adventure on the high seas in the early 19th century. A British war ship pursues a high-tech (for the times) French ship from Brazil to the Galapagos Islands. Russell Crowe makes an able Captain Jack Aubrey and Paul Bettany an endearing Stephen Maturin, the ship's surgeon, a pacifist and Jack's best friend. No one is completely sympathetic and the story is as bleak as can be, but it's worth it. — M. Pois. (R; some violence/disturbing images, language and a scene of sexuality.) 2 hours, 8 minutes. A-

"THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS": It takes a lot of forgiving and forgetting to derive any pleasure from this final chapter in the stylish man-vs.-machine trilogy. You have to let go of disappointment over "Reloaded," the second installment released earlier this year; you must overlook a truly hideous opening hour; and you have to forget the first "Matrix," an exhilarating experience that never succumbed, as this does, to self-conscious solemnity, senseless riddles and protracted death scenes. — P. Flowers. (R; sci-fi violence, brief sexual content.) 2 hours, 9 minutes. C

"MONSTER": Charlize Theron pulls off the year's most astounding screen makeover as Aileen Wuornos, the notorious Florida murderer. Director Patty Jenkins uncovers the lost, love-starved child cowering under the killer's hard shell. Wuornos, who confessed to murdering six men in the late 1980s and early '90s, died in the electric chair in 2002. By the time the movie begins, Theron has plied her trade for years as a hitchhiking low-rent prostitute working the highways of central Florida. The film focuses on her desperate, last-ditch relationship

with her captor. — M. Pois. (R; some violence/disturbing images, language and a scene of sexuality.) 2 hours, 8 minutes. A-

"IN AMERICA": This film by Jim Sheridan ("My Left Foot") is shot to look like a memory, as if we're reliving family history. An Irish family relocates in a rundown Manhattan apartment, escaping tragedy back home. The death of another child back home. Inspired by real-life events in Sheridan's life, with glowing performances (including Djimon Hounsou as a neighbor), we forgive its excesses, won over by the gentle nostalgia. — M. Pois. (PG-13; some sexual, drug references, brief violence and language.) 1 hour, 45 minutes. C+

"HOUSE OF SAND AND FOG": An adaptation of Andre Dubus III's best-selling novel. His plot, a contemporary American tragedy set between a former real estate squabbles between a former drug addict wrongfully evicted from her house (Jennifer Connelly) and the Iranian immigrant who buys it on auction (Ben Kingsley) had the germ of genius, but the execution hovered in the realm of melodrama. Thankfully, Vadim Perelman's devastatingly somber movie spares us the weak writing, tones down the hysteria somewhat and features some of the best performances of the year from Kingsley, Connelly and Shohreh Aghdashloo. No one is completely sympathetic and the story is as bleak as can be, but it's worth it. — M. Pois. (R; some violence/disturbing images, language and a scene of sexuality.) 2 hours, 6 minutes. A-

"THE COOLER": William H. Macy stars as a perpetual loser hired by an old-time Vegas-type casino boss (the terrific Alec Baldwin) to dampen the luck of others. Trouble is, the "cooler's" luck starts to turn. The film

takes a lot of forgiving and forgetting to derive any pleasure from this final chapter in the stylish man-vs.-machine trilogy. You have to let go of disappointment over "Reloaded," the second installment released earlier this year; you must overlook a truly hideous opening hour; and you have to forget the first "Matrix," an exhilarating experience that never succumbed, as this does, to self-conscious solemnity, senseless riddles and protracted death scenes. — P. Flowers. (R; sci-fi violence, brief sexual content.) 2 hours, 9 minutes. C

"JAPANESE STORY": A busy geologist (Toni Collette) is forced to take a demanding, difficult Japanese client (Gotoyo Tsunashima) on a trip through the Outback. They're as different as night and day, but find common ground after getting lost together. Collette ("The Sixth Sense," "About a Boy") gives an honest, open performance and bless her, finally gets a chance to be sexy. The story is unexpectedly touching. — M. Pois. (R; some sexuality and language.) 1 hour, 45 minutes. B+

"THE LAST SAMURAI": Tom Cruise

See REVIEWS, Page C4

ARTS & LEISURE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2001

C3

DAY MOVIE LISTINGS

Times for Friday February 6

Alameda County

1 and 2

Fog of War (PG-13) 6:45, 9:15.

Watched (Not Rated) 7:15, 9:45.

Any Twin

7:45, 9:45, Albany 510-524-9588

With a Pearl Earring (PG-13) 12,

9:45, 7:15, 9:30

Barbary Invasions (PG-13) 11:40, 2, 4:20, 6:45,

C Bay Street 16

12:30, 2:25, 4:45, 5:20, 7:50,

Big Bounce 12:15, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40,

Under Girls (PG-13) 1:45, 4:30, 7:05,

That Kid 12:05, 2:25, 4:45, 7:15,

Wing Liberty 12:10, 2:55, 5:35, 8:10,

War by the Dozen 1:10, 3:40, 7:10,

Mountain (R) 12:05, 3:30, 6:40,

With a Pearl Earring (PG-13) 12:20,

3:30, 5:15, 7:15, 9:30,

Lord of the Rings (PG-13) 1:5, 9,

12:35, 3, 5:40, 8:10, 10:10,

Master and Commander (R) 12:30, 3:30, 6:40, 9:15,

World (PG-13) 12:30, 3:30, 6:40,

That Kid 12:25, 3:25, 6:30, 9:30,

Big Bounce 12:25, 3:25, 6:30, 9:30,

With a Date Tad Hamilton! (PG-13)

2:45, 7:15, 9:30,

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Reviews

FROM PAGE C3

with Selby Wall (Christina Ricci), the lesbian lover who ended up testifying against her. — S. Holden. (R: graphic rape scene, several murders and abundant profanity.) 1 hour, 51 minutes. B+

"MYSTIC RIVER": There are many reasons to admire this dark drama, from the remarkable level of acting talent to the maturity and measured elegance of Clint Eastwood's direction. The film stimulates its audience like a classic old-fashioned mystery, the tension building to almost painful levels. Two tragedies lie at its heart, with breakout performances by Sean Penn and Tim Robbins as childhood friends forever shaped by ominous events. — M. Polis. (R: language, violence.) 2 hours, 17 minutes. A-

"THE PERFECT SCORE": At first, it seems to be a relatively edgy teen comedy about six high school students who challenge the take-the-SAT-or-take-the-highway college admissions system by swiping the test instead of actually boning up for it. But it tries to have it both ways, and its beat-the-corrupt-system theme morphs into Learn a Valuable Lesson. The cast, including Scarlett Johansson and the very funny Leonardo Nam, do what they can to keep things lively. — C. Hewitt. (PG-13: language, sexual content, some drug references.) 1 hour, 33 minutes. C+

"PETER PAN": A lavish spectacle with a bittersweet core, an old-fashioned family treat. P.J. Hogan may have created a classic of his own, by staying true to J.M. Barrie's beloved source material. Peter Pan is played by a boy, which is refreshing, and this Wendy has more dimension than most. — M. Polis. (PG: action sequences and peril.) 1 hour, 53 minutes. B+

"PIECES OF APRIL": With a theme about a dying mother (Patricia Clarkson), an estranged daughter (Katie Holmes), and a Thanksgiving dinner reunion, this film from writer/director Peter Hedges has the potential to be as cloying as sweet potato pie. But Hedges graciously dodges that bullet, delivering a movie darkly funny and deeply touching at the same time. — M. Polis. (PG-13: language, sensuality, drug content and images of nudity.) 1 hour, 21 minutes. A-

"THE SAME RIVER TWICE": Piercingly poignant then-and-now portrait of five friends who worked as summer guides on the Colorado River. In 1978, Robb Moss made a short 16mm movie, "Riverdogs," recording a monthlong communal trip down the Colorado. Ex-

cerpts from that film make up the "then" portions of this documentary. Cutting back and forth between then and now, Moss is more interested in contrasting moods and textures of life at different ages and eras than compiling a documentary history. — S. Holden. (Not rated; includes some nudity.) 1 hour, 18 minutes. B

"SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE": When making a love story, you've got to consider the kissability of your stars. Watching this movie, it's hard to imagine anyone wanting to smooth the male lead. That would be Jack Nicholson, as a raffish music executive who starts out dating a young woman (Amanda Peet), but finds himself falling for her mother (Diane Keaton). This was an opportunity to make a statement about truly adult romance, but director Nancy Meyers blows it. — M. Polis. (PG-13: sexual content, brief nudity, strong language.) C

"THE STATION AGENT": A reticent dwarf, a grieving mother and a chatty hot-dog vendor walk into a bar. Actually, they drink beer on a porch. Sounds like the setup to a joke, but it's the premise of this small film bursting with insightful humor, unforced poignancy and beautifully drawn characters. Peter Dinklage, Patricia Clarkson and Bobby Cannavale vividly portray three lonely people in rural New Jersey who form an unlikely social circle despite their antisocial tendencies. — C. Lemire. (R: language, some drug content.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. B+

"TORQUE": In this big-studio biker thriller, the laughs, intentional and otherwise, come fast and furious. Martin Henderson is a hunky biker back in town to clear his name with the feds, to set up the drug dealer who got him into trouble and to reclaim his woman, Shana (Monet Mazur). Ford dodges the Hellions, led by Henry James (Matt Schulze), and runs afoul of the Reapers, led by Ice Cuie. The riding is a frenzy of special effects, as Triumphs, Hondas, Yamahas and some crotch rocket called a Y2K do things that no motorcycle should do.

"Torque" is just the sort of film it aspires to be — a chase picture for 12-year-olds. — R. Moore. (PG-13: violence, sexuality, language and drug references.) 1 hour, 21 minutes. D

"21 GRAMS": Like Mexican director Gonzalez Iñárritu's last film, "Amores Perros," this one is about the ways tragedy (in this case a car accident) creates an unstoppable emotional maelstrom for those involved. Its arty, choppy style distracts from the truth that the film is permeated with melodrama and not as deep as it seems. Sean Penn is great in the lead, but better in "Mystic River." — M. Polis. (R: language, sexuality, some violence)

and drug use.) 2 hours, 5 minutes. B- "WIN A DATE WITH TAD HAMILTON": A movie star needs a reputation makeover, so his managers arrange a contest for a young lady to win a date. He's charmed by how sweet and down-to-earth she is and decides to pursue her, much to the chagrin of the hometown boy who's loved her from afar for years. Hardly groundbreaking, but offers some basic lessons on how the tired romantic comedy genre can be revitalized. — M. Polis. (PG-13: sexual content, some drug references and language.) 1 hour, 35 minutes. B

"YOU GOT SERVED": David and Elgin, leaders of a street dance troupe, take on all comers. No crew in Los Angeles can touch their scintillating moves until Wade, a smirky, spiky-haired suburban white boy, brings in a pack to steal their thunder. After besting the pair, he snarls, "You suckers got served!" The plot — and there really isn't enough of one to fill a movie video — revolves around a rift between David and Elgin. Will the guys patch up their differences in time for the big dance contest and a chance to show up Wade? Duh! — D. Hiltbrand. (PG-13: drug and sexual references, mild violence.) 1 hour, 33 minutes. D

"YOUNG BLACK STALLION": This is a prequel to "The Black Stallion," but not by the people who made that magnificent film; it's your basic plucky kid and majestic animal movie set in a picturesque locale (Egypt), but with a very muddy plot. Gorgeous IMAX photography. — C. Hewitt. (G) 45 minutes. C-

Obituaries and In Memoriam

Ruth E. Johnson

Ruth E. Johnson, passed away Sunday, January 18, 2004 in Berkeley at the age of 83. A native of Idaho and resident of Berkeley for 65 years. Ruth worked as a Research Associate at UC Berkeley. She was also a long time member of the First Baptist Church of Oakland.

A graveside service was held Monday, February 2, 2004 at Sunset View Cemetery, El Cerrito. Pastor Dale Edmondson officiated.

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El Cerrito, CA.
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CA	...Checks accepted	W	Wheelchair access

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Events

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"Troy, 'Revised'" by Wolf-Heidegger through Feb. 21. Story of the Trojan War from Heidegger's perspective.

\$15, Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. 951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito. 510-524-9132 or www.cct.org

IMPACT THEATRE — Now permanently housed under a pizza restaurant, dinner and a show is available if you like pizza.

"Say You Love Satan" by Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa, Feb. 6 through March 13. Andrew decides to dabble in the dark side when he begins dating the son of the Devil in this comedy.

\$15 general; \$10 students and seniors. Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m. La Val's Subterranean, 1839 Euclid St., Berkeley. 510-464-4468 or www.imactheatre.com

LA PENA CULTURAL CENTER —

"Love Fest 2004: A Literary and Musical Celebration of Love," Feb. 14, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Hosted by Aya de Leon with Meliza Banales, Shawna Peila, Kim Cook, Nonameko and Elaine Chao.

\$10 to \$12. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568 or www.lapena.org

MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE — "Ten Times Table," through Feb. 28. A comedy about an inept group of villagers who try to organize a commemorative pageant about the 17th-century "Massacre of the Penden Twelve."

\$13, Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. 7 p.m. and 7 p.m. 2013 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-5822 or www.auroratheatre.com

TELEY REPETORY THEATRE —

"Down" by Dael Orlandersmith, through March 7. A dark-skinned South-American woman and her life-long friend, a light-skinned African-American man, fall in love and find the truth of their skin is still a factor.

\$55 Tuesday and Friday, 8 p.m.;

Wednesday 7 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m.;

7 p.m. Feb. 12, 21, Feb. 26

March 6, 8 p.m.; Feb. 7, Feb. 14,

19, Feb. 28 and March 4, 2 p.m.

5 p.m.; NO SHOW FEB. 6. Berkeley's Thrust Stage, 2015 Addison

Berkeley. 510-647-2949, 888-7777 or www.berkeleyprep.org

PERFORMANCES — "Gypsy Journey of the Roma," Feb. 11, a performance by the 27 musicians and dancers of the Budapest Roma Ensemble and the Gypsy Cimbal Band of traditional Gypsy folk

music.

\$38 Zellerbach Hall, University

Cafeteria, Bancroft Way and Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. 510-642-5373 or www.calperformer.edu

TRA COSTA CIVIC THEATRE —

"...adapted by Steven Dietz, April 21, Bram Stoker's tale of Count Dracula, a vampire who

wants to exert his will over London residents who fight to save themselves

\$10 to \$30. Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sun-



graph.com
DOWNTOWN — Denise Perrier, Feb. 6. Matt Renzi, Peter Barshay, Eddie Marshall, Feb. 7.
Mimi Fox Solo Guitar, Feb. 10.
Jules Broussard, Bing Nathan and Ned Boynton, Feb. 11.
Ken El Lebrijano Flamenco Guitar, Feb. 12.

Brian Melvin, Feb. 13.

The Ned Boynton Combo, Feb. 14.

Free. Tuesday through Thursday at 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 9:30 p.m. 2102 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-3810 or www.downtown-restaurant.com

FREIGHT AND SALVAGE — Steve Seiskin, Alan Shamblin, Nina Gerber, Feb. 6. \$17.50 to \$18.50.

The Earl White Band, Feb. 7. \$15.50 to \$16.50.

Berkley High School Jazz Ensemble, Feb. 8. \$15.50 to \$16.50.

John Reischman and the Jaybirds, Feb. 11. \$15.50 to \$16.50.

The Mammals, Feb. 12. \$15.50 to \$16.50.

Tom Paxton, Feb. 13. \$20.50 to \$21.50.

The House Jacks, Feb. 14. \$17.50 to \$18.50.

Noe Venable, Feb. 15. \$15.50 to \$16.50.

Music starts at 8 p.m., unless otherwise noted. 1111 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-548-1761, 866-468-3399 or www.freightandsalvage.org

GRAND LAKE FARMERS MARKET ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE —

The entertainers perform continuously during the market hours. At Splash Pad Plaza

Feb. 7: Adrienne Serna

Feb. 14: East Bay Stompers.

Free. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Splash Pad Park, Grand and Lake Park avenues, Oakland. 510-451-6537 or www.geocities.com/splashpadjazz

JAZZ HOUSE — Wataka Ensemble, Feb. 7. \$8 to \$15.

Crater, Feb. 8, 12 p.m. \$7 to \$15.

Free. Friday and Klip Trio, Feb. 15, 8:15 p.m. Free.

Shows begin at 8 p.m., unless otherwise noted. 3192 Adeline St., Berkeley. 415-846-9432 or www.thejazzhouse.org

JAZZ SCHOOL — The Dynamic Faye Carroll: Music From Then to Now, Feb. 7, 8 p.m. \$10 to \$15.

The Rebecca Mauleon Quartet, Feb. 8, 4:30 p.m. \$20.

Solo So, Feb. 14, 8 p.m. \$12 to \$18.

Taylor Eigsti Trio, Feb. 15, 4:30 p.m. \$10 to \$15.

Hardyman Hall, The Jazzschool, 2087 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-845-5373 or www.jazzschool.com

JULIA MORGAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS — "Third Annual Valentine's Day Cabaret," Feb. 14, 7 p.m. A benefit for the Julia Morgan Center.

\$30 to \$35. 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. 925-798-1300 or www.juliamorgan.org

KIMBALLS EAST — Peter White, Feb. 6 through Feb. 8. \$30.

ConFunkShun, Feb. 13 through Feb. 15

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See EVENTS, Page C6



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Events

FROM PAGE C5

Shellmond St., Emeryville. 510-762-BASS or www.kimballs.com.

LA PENA CULTURAL CENTER — De Roma y Raja, Feb. 7, 8:30 p.m. \$15. "Benefit Concert for Dennis Kucinich," Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m. With Gerry Tenney, Will Fudeman and Betsy Rose. \$15. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568 or www.lapena.org.

924 GILMAN ST. — Good Clean Fun, Kill the Messenger, Paint Out the Light, Feb. 6. Kylea, Brainoll, Iron Lung, Feb. 7. The Frisk, Midnightrame, Feb. 13. Reality Crisis, Rotory Beginners, Leperd Totem, Deadfall, Feb. 14. All ages. Shows are \$5 and start at 8 p.m. 924 Gilman St., Berkeley. 510-525-9926 or www.924gilman.org.

OAKLAND ARENA — Bettie Midler, Feb. 10, 8 p.m. Part of the "Kiss My Brass Tour." \$37.62 to \$166.67. Hegenberger Road and I-880, Oakland. 510-762-2277 or www.tickets.com.

OAKLAND BOX THEATER — "Tuesday Night Oakland Box Series," 8 p.m. Live and experimental music. \$7 to \$100. 1928 Telegraph Ave., 510-451-1932 or www.oaklandbox.com.

PARAMOUNT THEATRE — Erykah Badu, Floetry, Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m. \$39.50 to \$75.50. "Valentine's Day Love Serenade," Feb. 14, 8 p.m. Featuring The Whispers and Peabo Bryson. \$42.50 to \$75. 2025 Broadway, Oakland. 925-685-TIXS or www.ticketmaster.com.

SHATTUCK DOWN LOW — Quetzal, Feb. 6, 9:30 p.m. \$10. Prefixo de Verao, Feb. 7, 9 p.m. \$12. La Verdada, Feb. 13, 7 p.m. \$15 general; \$10 students.

Live Salsa Night, Wednesday, 8 p.m. \$10. For ages 21 and older. 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-1159 or www.shattuckdownlow.com.

STARRY PLOUGH PUB — Jackpot, Rich McCully Band, John Blaylock, Jan. 30. \$6.

The Stacks, Flair, The Mitts, Jan. 31. \$6. George Pedersen and His Pretty Good Band, Feb. 5. \$5.

The Moore Brothers, Feb. 6. \$6. The Servants, Trouble Horse, Jerry Hannan, Feb. 7. \$6.

Davis Redford Trax, Appreciation, Feb. 12. \$12.

"My Bloody Valentine Bash," Feb. 13. Featuring I Will Kill You Fcker, Ned, Ramona The Pest, She Mob, The Shut-Ins, The Slow Poisoners, Feb. 13. \$7.

The Solution, Mushroom, Feb. 14. \$5. For ages 21, Sunday and Wednesday, 8 p.m.; Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082.

YOSHII'S — "The 10th Annual McCoy Tyner Two-Week Residency," through Feb. 8. With Wario Sanders, Havi Coltrane, Charnett Moffett and Eric Harland. \$20 to \$28.

El Cerrito High School Jazz Band, Feb. 9. \$10.

The Tony Williams Project, Feb. 10 through Feb. 15. \$12 to \$26. Shows are Monday through Saturday, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland. 510-238-9200, www.yoshis.com or www.ticketweb.com.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

CAL PERFORMANCES — Hilary Hahn, violin, Feb. 8, 7 p.m. A program of works by Mozart, Bach and Bloch, with piano accompaniment by Natalie Zhu. \$32 to \$56.

Venice Baroque Orchestra, Feb. 13 and Feb. 14, 8 p.m. Featuring Andrea Mar-

con, harpsichord. Performing Handel's "Siree." \$36 to \$56. Cecilia Bartoli, mezzo-soprano with Sergio Giormi, piano, Feb. 15, 3 p.m. \$50 to \$50.

ZELLERBACH HALL, University of California, Bancroft Way and Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. 510-642-9988 or www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

FLAUTI DIVERSI — "The Italians Are Coming!" Feb. 7, 8 p.m. Baroque music in the Italian style from 18th-century London. \$15 to \$16. St. Albans' Episcopal Church, 1501 Washington St., Albany. 510-527-9840.

MILLS COLLEGE — Meredith Monk, Feb. 14, 8 p.m. The composer, singer and choreographer will perform.

\$12 general; \$6 seniors. 5000 MacArthur Boulevard, Oakland. 510-430-2296 or www.mills.edu.

PHILHARMONIA BAROQUE ORCHESTRA — "Beethoven's Thrids," Feb. 7 and Feb. 8. Nicholas McGegan conducting, with Melvyn Tan on fortepiano. \$29 to \$60. Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 7:30 p.m. First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. 415-392-4400 or www.philharmonia.org.

ST. JOHNS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH — THIRD SUNDAY AT FOUR — David Moroney, Feb. 15, 4 p.m. UC Berkeley professor and organist will perform works by Louis Couperin. Donation.

2727 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-6830 or http://stjohns.presbychurch.net.

DANCE

ASHKENAZ — Vivian e Prexiso de Varela with Aquarela Brazilian Dance Ensemble. Feb. 6, 9:30 p.m. \$13.

Groundation, Feb. 7, 9:30 p.m. \$13. Midnite, Feb. 10 and Feb. 11, 9:30 p.m. \$17 to \$20.

Afro-Muzika, Feb. 14, 9:30 p.m. \$13.

1317 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley. 510-525-5055 or www.ashkenaz.com.

CAL PERFORMANCES — Merce Cunningham Dance Company, Feb. 6 and Feb. 7, 8 p.m. A unique program of works each night including "Biped" by Gavin Bryars on Friday, and "Inter-scape" by John Cage on Saturday.

\$26 to \$46. Zellerbach Hall, Bancroft Way and Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. 510-642-9988 or www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

DANCEWITHEME — "Valentine's Dance," Feb. 14, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. A night of dancing to live music by the Moodswing Orchestra. There will be dance lessons, refreshments, a no-host bar, and a raffle for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Dress is semi-formal. Singles and couples welcome. \$20 to \$25. Lake Merritt Dance Center Grand Ballroom, 200 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-523-5587 or www.dancewitheme.info.

DIVVADANCE PRODUCTIONS — "The Ancient Art of Belly Dance, Liberating the Diva Within," Feb. 15, 8 p.m. A belly dancing performance featuring Nanna Candelaria, Zari, Aiyana and Asata Iman and the Raks al Tasneem Troupe. \$10. Oakland Box Theater, 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-237-2152 or www.asata.net.

MUSICOURCES — "Renaissance Dance Party," Feb. 8, 5 p.m. A dance lesson with music from Elizabethan times. \$18 general, \$15 students and seniors. 1000 The Alameda at Marin, Berkeley. 510-528-1685.

SHATTUCK DOWN LOW — Live Salsa, Wednesday, 8 p.m. A live salsa band plays, and there are beginning and intermediate lessons.

\$10 general; \$5 students. 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-1159 or www.shattuckdownlow.com.

STARRY PLOUGH PUB — "Dance Class & Cell," Mondays, 7 p.m. Traditional Irish music and dance.

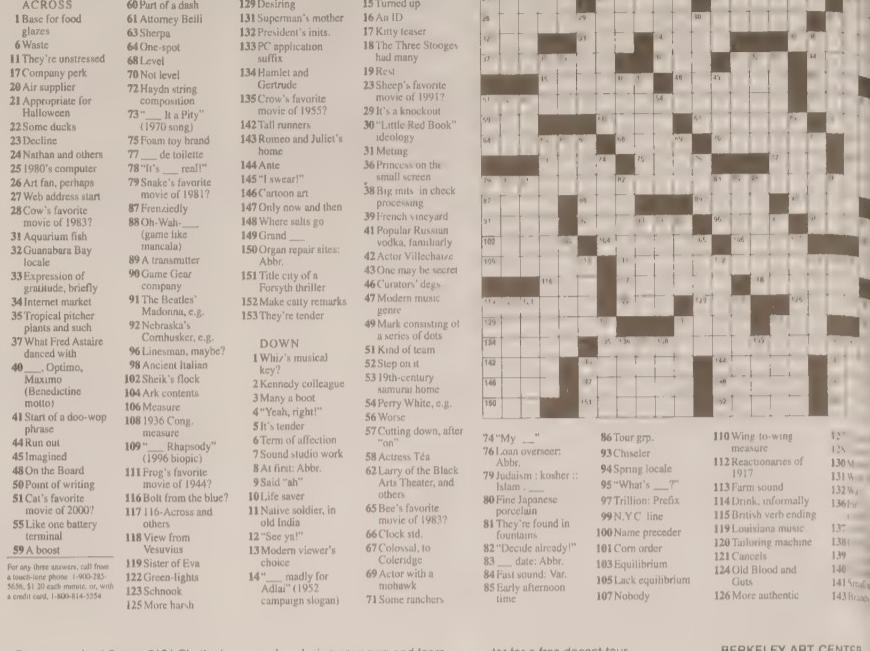
"The Starry Session," Sundays, 8 p.m. Irish traditional music and song led by Shay Black. Sliding scale.

For ages 21 and over. Dance lesson at

ARTS & LEISURE

NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

FILM SOUNDS By Roy Leban / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ



7 p.m.; music at 9 p.m. 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082.

OUTDOORS

OAKLAND ZOO — SPECIAL EVENTS — "Critter Crafts," Feb. 8 through Feb. 22. A three-class series of animal art projects for children ages 3 to 5 and their parents. Learn about a different animal each week and take home a corresponding craft. Pre-registration required. Sunday, 10:30 a.m. to noon. 510-632-9525, ext. 142.

"Animal Amore! Valentine's Day Tour," Feb. 14, 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m. Special walking tours will present steamy facts about animal courtship and mating habits, gestational periods and care of young. Not recommended for children under age 12. Free with regular zoo admission but reservations required. 510-632-9525, ext. 142.

\$8 to \$10 general; \$5 seniors and children ages 2 to 14; free children under age 2; \$4 parking fee. Daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Knowland Park, 9777 Golf Links Road, exit off Interstate Highway 580, Oakland. 510-632-9525 or www.oaklandzoo.org.

REI BERKELEY — A series of lectures on hikes and outdoor equipment.

"Hiking the 60-Mile Diablo Grand Loop: A Trail in Progress," Jan. 20. Seth Adams will present slides and talk about backpacking opportunities in Contra Costa County.

Events are free and begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-4140.

TILDEN REGIONAL PARK — NATURE AREA — "Kids Garden Club," Feb. 7, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Build a cob greenhouse for the winter season. Registration required. 510-525-2233, ext. 335 to 39 general; \$30 to \$34 seniors; \$20 to \$22 children ages 8 to 10.

"Who Eats Who? Owl Pellet Mystery Party," Feb. 15, 10 a.m. to noon. Learn about the meals of owls and go home with a skeleton. \$4.

"Early Bloomers," Feb. 15, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Admire the early blooming plants including milkmaids and leatherwood and learn their natural history.

REGIONAL PARKS BOTANIC GARDEN — Guided docent tours of the gardens. Call ahead for times and to confirm tour is on for the day: most Saturdays and Sundays, 2 p.m.

Free unless noted otherwise. Entrances off Wildcat Canyon Road and Grizzly Peak Boulevard, Berkeley. 510-525-2233 or www.ebparks.org.

UC BERKELEY BOTANICAL GARDEN — ongoing. The gardens have displays of exotic and native plants.

TOURS — Botanical Garden Tours, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, 1:30 p.m. Meet at the Tour Orientation Cen-

card or design your own and learn about the cultural history of Valentine's Day. \$5 to \$7.

"Sushi for the More Adventurous," Feb. 14, 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Learn about nature's bounty and taste gifts from the sea, especially more exotic types. For ages 8 and older. Children ages 8 to 10 must be accompanied by adult.

Registration required. 510-525-2233, \$35 to \$39 general; \$30 to \$34 seniors; \$20 to \$22 children ages 8 to 10.

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Lord of the rink: Russell scores with 'Miracle'

By Mary F. Pols
STAFF WRITER

The glorious sight of the underdog 1980 American Olympic hockey team beating the Soviet Union at Lake Placid is one of the sweetest moments of our collective cultural history. It was pure joy. When Sports Illustrated named it the single greatest sports moment of the 20th century, they knew what they were talking about.

Thanks to Disney's "Miracle," we get to revisit that moment, or in the case of younger generations, discover it for the first time. The story has been told before, in a forgettable 1981 made-for-TV movie called "Miracle on Ice," which starred Karl Malden as coach Herb Brooks, and in HBO's 2001 documentary "Do You Believe in Miracles: The Story of the 1980 U.S. Hockey Team." But "Miracle" is the first time the team's victory has been portrayed on the big screen, and it's a fitting celebration of hockey, youth and the dedication and spirit of Brooks.

Kurt Russell stars as Brooks, and the movie is sculpted around his character, a tough taskmaster who led these young men (average age: 21) to victory after a seven-month campaign to mold them into a team. It's a great part for the perennially under-appreciated Russell, the kind of role that should make directors and casting agents reevaluate the former Disney teen star, just as "The Rookie" gave boost to Dennis Quaid. Russell gives an assured, intelligent performance that anchors the film.

With the exception of Eddie Cahill, who played Rachel's young boyfriend on "Friends" a few seasons ago and scored the starring role of goalie Jim Craig, team members are portrayed by real hockey players with little or no acting experience. One of them, Billy Schneider, is playing his father, Buzz Schneider. They have authentic regional accents and can actually skate. They've also been given dialogue that sounds true: The minute I heard one of them greet Craig in the locker room with "What's up, you sieve?" I knew screenwriter Eric Guggenheim had a feel for hockey players.

The film opens with a montage of historical events from the



ICE, ICE BABY: Kurt Russell leads the way as Olympic hockey coach Herb Brooks in "Miracle."

1970s, all of them reflecting a general sense of an America down on its luck. The Watergate scandal, the hostage crisis, the gas shortages, the constant threat of trouble with the Soviet Union, all dreary pieces of history that show how much we needed a collective pick-me-up. Initially, I found this montage off-putting and unnecessary; did we really need this primer? Did this mean the movie was going to beat the patriotic drum until I wanted to scream? At the age of 15, my reasons for going nuts for the American hockey team had nothing to do with a national malaise. I loved hockey and I thought Jim Craig was the cat's meow — it didn't go much deeper than that.

But on reflection, the montage makes sense. Director Gavin O'Connor ("Tumbleweeds") had to set the stage. The vast majority of the moviegoing crowd skews a lot younger than me, and anyone born after 1974 is unlikely

REVIEW

■ WHAT: "Miracle"

■ STARRING: Kurt Russell, Patricia Clarkson, Noah Emmerich, Eddie Cahill, Patrick O'Brien Demsey

■ RATING: PG (language and some rough sports action)

■ RUNNING TIME: 2 hours, 16 minutes

■ WHERE: Opens today at area theaters

■ GRADE: B+

to remember anything from that time. Moreover, O'Connor and Guggenheim don't allow the politics of the era to interfere with the hockey.

While it's true that audiences around the country were likely primed for a symbolic victory over the Soviet Union, in "Miracle," the boys don't sit around the locker room talking about the Cold War. Given our current po-

itical climate — say anything slightly critical of our country and get a decidedly undemocratic spanking from all those "patriots" out there — one might have expected a cheery all-American establishment like Disney to shovel some jingoistic garbage into these players' mouths. That doesn't happen. They talk, as they probably did in real life, about how the Soviets were the best, and everyone wants to beat the best.

But because this is Disney, there is a more than liberal dose of loud sentimental music mucking up the works, telling us when our hearts should be swelling with pride and our eyes filling with tears. It's unfortunate that the filmmakers didn't have enough confidence in the drama inherent in the story they were telling to avoid this easy manipulation. "The Rookie" had the same problem.

The movie also runs on the long side. It takes its time,

nearly 90 minutes, just to get to Lake Placid. There's a lot of trite, busy husband/neglected wife interplay between Russell and the talented Patricia Clarkson, who plays Brooks' wife, Patti, that slows down the action. But that last half hour is a thrill ride, lots of fast, exciting action and a sense of mounting suspense (even though we know the Soviets are going to lose). By the time Mike Eruzione (Patrick O'Brien Demsey) that winning goal in the net, I found myself punching the air, just as I had at 15.

A sad note: The real Brooks, who served as an adviser on the film and helped Russell flesh out his character, died in a car accident last August. He never saw the finished film. But as a coda that runs just before the credits reassures us, he lived it.

Reach Mary F. Pols at 925-945-4741 or mpols@ccitimes.com.



Flamenco, Wine And Roses

CAFE DE LA PAZ, 1600 Shattuck Ave. in Berkeley, presents "Flamenco, Wine & Roses, two nights of romance for valentines," on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 13 and 14. For one price, the evening includes music and dance of the Spanish Gypsies as presented by Caminos Flamencos and Emmy Award-winning choreographer, Yaelisa (above); a four-course prix fixe dinner; candlelight and roses with a complimentary rose for the ladies. Shows will be at 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on Feb. 13, and 5, 6, 8 and 8:30 p.m. on Feb. 14. For tickets or reservations 510-843-0662 or www.cafedelapaz.net.

use of the house band is required, musical charts or sheet music and a professional quality tape must be received no less than two weeks in advance of the show date. From the audition process, 10-12 acts will be chosen to compete at the Showtime at the Apollo on Tour performance 8 p.m. May 8, Zellerbach Hall. The winner will receive a \$1,000 cash prize, two American Airlines plane tickets to New York and the opportunity to compete live on the world-famous Apollo Theatre stage in Harlem. Auditioners will be scheduled in two-hour time blocks on March 6. Auditioners are encouraged to sign up in advance; walk-up auditioners will be accepted only on a "time-permitting" basis.

Laura Abrams, 510-642-0212 or e-mail apollo@calperfs.berkeley.edu.

■ **Katie's Dance Company** — Seeking male dancers, ages 11-21, to perform in ongoing professional shows in the Bay Area. Dance experience required. Dancers may enroll in training classes, which offer opportunities to fill dance company openings. 10311 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. Appointments: Katie, 510-524-1310 or 925-229-2695.

■ **Piedmont Children's Choir** — 9:30 a.m.-noon Saturday, for children 7-10. Children are asked to sing a simple song, such as "Happy Birthday." Rehearsals are held weekly after school in Oakland and Piedmont. 510-547-4441, Ext. 2.

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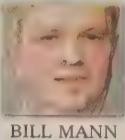
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Arts & Leisure

Friday, February 6, 2004



BILL MANN
Multimedia Notes

Badly done sex fills television

IT'S NOT SO much the increasing volume of sex on TV these days. It's the way it's usually portrayed.

You may have seen the story recently about the Chinese government banning "Friends." "I had thought the show focused on friendship," said China's disappointed top TV exec. But friendship, despite the hit NBC series' title, has always been besides the point on the dreadful "Friends" — which mercifully, will soon end: The NBC comedy has always been, in essence, a nonstop sex joke. And please, spare us all the tearful "Friends" farewell tributes in May.

Another network series that appears to be scripted by 14-year-old males, ABC's "Less Than Perfect," devoted an entire episode recently to one tasteless joke after another about someone having sex with — gasp! — a 70-year-old woman.

And earlier this season, Fox tried its own series about a porn-industry family. But "Skin" lasted only three episodes. Not enough skin, apparently. Cable, of course, can show plenty of skin — and it does in the deplorable "Family Business," whose first season is now out on DVD.

In a business as obsessed with sex as TV is these days, it's no surprise cable execs would try to turn a real-life porn king and his family into the latest Ozzie and Harriet. As if attempting the same thing with the family of an addled drug abuser, Ozzie Osbourne, weren't bad enough.

We're referring to a bit of tawdriness called "Family Business," a late-night series just back for its second season on Friday nights at 11 on pay-cable's Showtime.

No sooner was the ink dry on Adam Glasser's plea agreement with prosecutors — the first time pornography charges had been filed against anyone in L.A. since 1993 — than some programming genius at Showtime decided Glasser's outwardly boyish charm might make him a good TV series star. Showtime says "Family Business" is about Glasser and his alter ego Seymour Butts' "average family" trying to make it in the adult entertainment industry.

All that's missing is Glasser with a pipe and a cardigan sweater — instead of the video camera he totes around shooting adult films like "Tampa Tushfest" (the one that got him busted).

The series also features Adam's real-life older cousin Stevie. The profanity-spewing Stevie's supposed to be "gruff but lovable," but he's neither — he's vulgar and astringent. Glasser even uses his annoying mother, who works in his adult film office, in "Business."

Shame is in short supply on TV these days, you've probably noticed. "Family Business" is basically a peep show with production values.

When considering TV's dirty, adolescent treatment of sex these days, two words quickly spring to mind: Forced sterilization.

AT THE OTHER extreme, I got this e-mail about classy KRON-TV weekend anchor Catherine Heenan from one of her co-workers:

"Bill: I love working with Catherine Heenan on weekends. I was again delighted to see her on your list of what's best about broadcasting. In the past year my admiration for her has only grown. If everyone in the business were as wonderful as she is, life would be heaven on Earth. And every producer at KRON feels that way about her, too. She is the one person there about whom I've never heard a discouraging word. 'Angel' and 'goddess' are the two words I most often hear in connection with Catherine."

"To give you one example of what I mean, if she's dashing out to the store, she asks everyone within earshot if she can pick up anything for them — even the security guard."

Reach Bill Mann at News-mann@sonic.net.



CONTRIBUTED

CRAZY QUILT series by Pizzichillo & Gordon will be part of the "Light My Fire" exhibition that runs through Feb. 21.

ACCI glass show clearly creative

By Brian Kluepfel
CORRESPONDENT

BERKELEY — Berkeley used to be such a well-cooperative place. Although the late, great Berkeley Co-op breathed its last in 1988, some enterprises still maintain the collective spirit: Missing Link Bicycle, The Cheese Board, the Juice Bar, and Arts and Crafts Cooperative Inc. (ACCI), the oldest artists' cooperative west of the Mississippi (and the Pecos, for that matter).

Incorporated in 1959 and in its current location since 1960, ACCI has been home to

IF YOU GO

WHAT: ACCI presents "Light My Fire," a glass exhibition

WHEN: Through Feb. 21.

Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday.

WHERE: 1652 Shattuck Avenue (at Lincoln), Berkeley.

INFO: 510-843-2527 or www.accigallery.com

more than 3,000 California artist/members over the years. Upon being selected by a jury process — each discipline has its own committee, i.e., painters select fellow painters — artists pay an annual fee and do 20 hours' volunteer time. For that, they get a sense of community and another precious commodity — wall space.

Although the process whereby members' works are put on display is vigorously debated, 102 people are still a part of ACCI, a testament to its viability in its fifth decade. The gallery keeps half the proceeds of an artist's sales, and the members share collectively in ACCI's profits.

Hundreds of art objects fill ACCI's two-room gallery on Shattuck Avenue: oil and acrylic paintings, jewelry, sculptures, ceramics, and even clothing. This month a dedicated space pays tribute to a number of Oakland and Berkeley blown-glass artists, including Melodile Beylik, Chuck Vannatta, Holly Wallace, and Michael Sosin. (Beylik, Wallace and Sosin are collective members, while the others pay an additional fee as non-members).

Sosin, who along with Beylik works out of the well-used Sawtooth Building in West Berkeley, has always been obsessed with the medium.

"I love the glass-blowing process, and it is not just because it is hot, dirty work, that somebody has to do," he says. "There is nothing quite as exciting as shaping and forming this hot material — a material that you can never actually touch, and yet, there is such a tender and intimate relationship with it."

Wallace emphasizes the form and function of her glass works, which she's been creating for nearly 30 years.

"The pieces are created to not only be enjoyed visually but also to be functional pieces of art," she says. "Vases are created to hold



A RED and yellow vessel by Holly Wallace.

bouquets of flowers and lamps are intended to enlighten the decor with color and hand-made form." She calls her work a "dance with fire and gravity, glass and inspiration, technical skill and happy accidents," and looks to natural colors found in gardens and wildlife.

Perusing the collection of greeting cards in the front of the gallery, one finds interesting cityscapes of Berkeley by longtime

ACCI member John Kenyon, as well as pointillist, reflective nature scenes by New Camaldoli Hermitage (Big Sur) monk Father Arthur Poulin. The back garden is a metal menagerie, populated by sculptures of frogs, whales, owls, herons and fish.

ACCI board President Kirk McCarthy hopes to restore some of the community-based ties the collective once had with its neighbors.

The building, put up in 1933 as a French laundry in partnership with the still-standing French Hotel, was spared the bulldozers last year when a bank loan enabled earthquake retrofitting.

Among recent community outreach efforts was a 2003 children's show, brought together by collective member Olga Segal, who teaches in the nearby Youth Arts Studio (and also works part-time at ACCI).

"We're trying to expand it to be more connected in terms of neighborhood ... exposing to people who haven't been exposed to it before," says McCarthy, whose own specialty is working in metal. Some of his shiny titanium clocks adorn the gallery walls.

Echoing what member Ellen Russell told me, McCarthy said, "I love the sense of community that ACCI offers."

He said it gives him a "connection with history, and with arts and ... hopefully, a hearkening back to handmade, locally-made crafts." So buy a bialy at the Cheese Board, sip a smoothie at the Juice Bar, and when you're done, gander at the glass at ACCI. It's a Berkeley thing, you see.



DAVID HERING created this black vase with silver foil.

Reach Brian Kluepfel at bkluepf@hotmail.com.



JACK TUCKER
Community Theater

Play explores intraracial

LONG BEFORE American reggae "black," which planted "Negro," wharf mispronunciation, the epithet "yellow" was a disparagement for a light-skinned son.

That explains the theme of "Yellowman" by Orlandersmith, on Bay Repertory Theatre's Stage through March 1, searing look at of skin color — not case, white versus black, the far more hidden divide of darker black lighter black.

Alma, played by Tami Henry, is a dark-skinned woman. Eugene, played by Clark Jackson, is a light-skinned black man. They've been friends since their Carolina childhood together, grew up, went ways, got together as friendship deepened and doomed romance.

That span of years fully played by these actors, particularly as adapt their adult world joys and hurts of childhood. They also step into the lives of their parents' friends — most often encounters. The play is like body blows in the sive, yet often lyrical reflection of internal African-American racism.

Making their Repertory only actors in this uninterrupted work, story-telling that puts in the conventional s directed by Les Waters, Rep's associate artist.

Symbolically, they are seated apart on straight chairs on the thrust stage. Dark a black blouse and black skirt. Light Eugene wears a shirt and tan pants. The stage floor is a subtle of varicolored painted dark to light as is the which they play their.

"Yellowman" is not note play about a half-dancing color line. Al Eugene's nuanced performances explore the levels of other influences, parental abuse, sonal "drives," the place in upbringing better-off (Eugene) city limits;" the poorer, darker (Alma) are, sense, "beyond the

There is an inevitability about the bleak outcome, rigorously honest play hard to take at times uplifted by the sheer talents involved in staging and bringing enormous stirring experience.

For information times and prices, call 2949 or toll-free at 800-822-2222.

ON THE OTHER Star-crossed love can be played for laughs as pathos. Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night," and Lafayette's Town Hall Company opens a version of the Bard's of mistaken identity, dressing and disguise John Butterfield is a

How "different" be a bit racy, with few cal truths and Sir Antics set — in to international European on 1920 New York stop turning, the wall

Plays at 8 p.m. on Fridays and 7 p.m. Saturdays and 7 p.m. Sundays, Feb. 29.

Town Hall Theatre School St. (at Morris Lafayette. Tickets between \$17 and \$40, depending on date. Performances for youths under 12 are \$12. Call 262-2768.

Reach Jack Tucker at jtucker@cttimes.com. 262-2768.

Friday Auto Plus

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Advertising supplement to The Montclarion, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

Friday, February 6, 2004

Section D

ARV VOSS

2-WHEELING TODAY

ridin', ridin'
'rhythmic
bike riders

MOTOR MATTERS

I probably got the ridin' part headline, but what do ridin' and rhythmic have to do with motocycles? You might wonder. Well, if you're reading this column, you're not in a coma from falls or wearing a helmet when you fell off your cycle.

For the math, we'll let you figure out your own equations by evaluating motorcycle-riding equipment. You may or may not have read a column on selecting the cycle that's right for you, but either — if you plan to ride a wheeled vehicle, or even if you've been riding for years, there are very important issues to consider.

To achieve maximum enjoyment riding a bike (any kind of bike), to eliminate the "worry factor" about injury. Choosing the right gear won't prevent personal mishap, but "suiting up" safety in mind can go a long way in minimizing the pain and discomfort that may result from an accident.

An old axiom about two kinds of motorcycle riders — "those who have fallen down, and those who are going to do so" — is not an old tale, but the gospel truth, me.

We start at the top with helmet and work our way down. We've a variety of helmets from which to choose — from Harley-Davidson to full face helmets.

2-WHEELING, Page D3



MOTOR MATTERS

THE 2004 VERSION of the best-selling Ford Explorer comes with two engine choices — a 239-horsepower V8 or a 210-horsepower V6 with four-wheel drive for true off-roading capabilities. This SUV also has high safety crash test ratings.

Ford Explorer appeals to many for various reasons

MOTOR MATTERS

With all the sport utility vehicles on the market, why has the Ford Explorer been the best-selling SUV for the past 12 years? Here's my explanation:

One reason could be that the overall appearance is easy on the eyes. My tester, the XLT Sport model, has smooth, simple body panels with running boards that make entry easy.

Also, the polished 16-inch steel wheels give it great eye appeal and could attract buyers, which could account for the outstanding sales

record.

The spacious interior has the inviting look of comfort. Those who open the doors on the Eddie Bauer or Limited models will see second-row bucket seats with a center console.

For those who don't require seven seats, the comfort of the center seats could be a lure.

Or, another factor: The third-row seats have plenty of headroom and legroom. In the basic models, the second-row seat has a 40/20/40 split back, allowing for hauling of odd-size cargo.

TOM KEANE
Keane on Wheels

Another incentive to buy the Explorer is the choice of powertrains. My tester had a V8 engine that produced 239 horsepower, compared to the V6 engine that produces 210 hp.

These engines provide a towing capacity of either 7,000 or 5,380 pounds on the 4WD models.

Those Explorers equipped with four-wheel drive are genuine off-road vehicles, yet the ride over rugged roads is comparatively gentle due to its independent rear suspension.

On paved roads, the ride is very

comfortable and reasonably quiet. Ride comfort is definitely a selling point.

One aspect that everyone can find comforting is knowing how well the Explorer rates with safety features. In crash tests, the 2002 Explorer received a four-star rating for the driver and five-star rating for the front seat passenger.

Also, the Insurance Institute named the Explorer as the "Best Pick" in 40-mph offset frontal crash tests.

See KEANE Page D2



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Tall 1931 V16 Cadillac sports big headlamps, long hood and a rumble seat

MOTOR MATTERS

Cadillac Motor Car Co. President Lawrence P. Fisher in 1929 announced the most fabulous Cadillac to that time, the 1930 V16 series 452. Cadillac produced a variety of models propelled by V16 engines for 11 years, through the 1940 model year.

One of those early V16 Cadillacs was a sporty 1931 Detroit-built model: An 18-foot-long convertible coupe fitted out with a rumble seat and not one, but two, golf bag doors — one on each side.

The entire package was supported by a 148-inch wheelbase. It had a base price of about \$6,900.

From day one, in 1931, that particular Cadillac evidently received kid glove treatment. Jim George first saw the Cadillac in the summer of 1997 when it was put up for sale right after it had undergone a complete restoration in St. Louis.

George was taken by the beauty of the all-black Cadillac; however, it was already sold by then. "It was neat looking with the top up or down," he says.

Almost five years later George saw a list of antique cars to be sold at the annual Meadowbrook auction in August 2002 and there, amazingly, was the black 1931 Cadillac.

"I'm like a hound on the scent of an animal," George says. "There it was, the same car that I had admired earlier."

George made arrangements to ensure that he and his wife, Brenda, would be in attendance at the Meadowbrook auction in Rochester, Mich., on Aug. 3, 2002. As the gleaming black 5,600-pound Cadillac crossed the block, most of the bidders in attendance pulled out their cellphones in order to be in contact with the monied principals they were representing.

George is convinced that he had an edge because he was doing his own bidding. Regardless, after less than a minute of frantic high-stakes bidding, the car was his.

George quickly insured the 6-foot, 1-inch-tall Cadillac rumble seat convertible and arranged have it trucked in an enclosed van to his home in Haymarket, Va. The history of the car is somewhat elusive, but George has learned that it was sold new in Minneapolis in April 1931.

"It was there just in time for warm weather," George concludes.

From there, the well-traveled car spent time in Florida and later California before being auctioned in Michigan and trucked to Virginia. Records show that the Cadillac was brown when it left the factory. The leather upholstery matches the light-gray pinstriping.



SECOND OPPORTUNITY to buy proved successful for owner of this 1931 V16 Cadillac built in Detroit. The convertible is 18 feet long with a rumble seat and two golf bag doors.

VERN PARKER
Classic Classics

Access to the rumble seat is via the three steps up the right rear fender. Rumble seat accommodations are surprisingly posh, including padded arm rests and an unseen courtesy light beneath the cowl that illuminates the compartment to eliminate any surprises in the dark.

On the valances above both running boards are courtesy lights. Hidden behind the right valance is the battery. Behind the left valance is a compartment for tools.

Both side-mounted 7.50x19-inch spare tires are shrouded in black material matching the convertible top. All six wheels have 54 spokes.

The front of the Cadillac is dominated by the headlights, each with a 13-inch-diameter lens. Between the headlights on a horizontal bar in front of the gravel guard

on the radiator is the emblem that bestows bragging rights on the owner.

The message on the emblem simply says: "V16." Behind the massive radiator is the 452-cubic-inch V16 engine under the long engine hood with five ventilating doors on each side.

The slanted windshield and curved carriage sill above the running board are indications that this V16 was built in Detroit. Pennsylvania-built models had flat sills and perpendicular windshields.

The "suicide" doors swing to the back on three hinges. In the cockpit is a four-spoke steering wheel and on the dashboard is a speedometer that tops out at 120 miles per hour. "There's a bit of optimism there," George observes.

For your car to become the subject of the Classic Classics column, send a photo (frontal 3/4 view), plus brief details and phone number to: Vern Parker, 2221 Abbotsford Drive, Vienna, VA 22181. Only photos of good quality will be considered.

Keane

FROM PAGE D2

This vehicle has steel beams in the doors to prevent intrusion in side-impact. It also has side airbag systems and rollover protection. In addition, anti-lock brakes are standard equipment. Those points could swing a deal.

In some SUVs, the spare tire is in the rear cargo area, or under the floor, which takes up valuable storage space. In the Explorer, the spare is under the rear floor — and it isn't too difficult to access. Having extra storage space is a plus.

What makes this report confusing is that there are numerous models from which to choose. The Ford people explained that for 2004, there is an XLS, XLT, XLT Premium and Adrenalin.

For example, the XLS excludes power mirrors, keyless steering wheel, speed control, floor mats. The XLT Premium has a new monochromatic look to the bumpers, fascia, molding bars; the Adrenalin has a pre-system.

Although determining what equipment is confusing, tester has a base price of \$33,555. At this price, I doubt sales would be record-setting.

12 years. But when I consider models available — with price — it is understandable why the best-seller.

Ford has something appealing to shopper and all have one thing in common: the name Explorer.

FORD EXPLORER XLT

Vehicle Type	Seven-passenger, four-door 4WD sport utility
Suggested Retail	
Price as Tested	
Engine Type	
Horsepower	
Torque	
Transmission	
Wheelbase	
Height	
Curb Weight	
Fuel Capacity	
Mileage	

SOHC16-valve, 4.6-liter V8

239 at 6,000 rpm

292 at 4,600 rpm

Five-speed automatic

11/04

City/highway

person whose driving habits don't require substantial power (few passengers, around-town driving).

Most six-cylinder engines arrange their cylinders in a V configuration, making the engine substantially greater in width. This can really fill up an engine bay, making some service jobs more difficult.

With a greater number of cylinders comes improved operational smoothness and larger displacement — up to about 3.5 liters. This allows greater power output, but reduced fuel economy.

The silky smoothness of a six and the more authoritative sound of its exhaust say better than words that this is the premium version of the car.

A six-cylinder engine would be best for a person who loads the vehicle, drives in hilly terrain or is luxury-oriented. It also will command greater resale value at trade-in time.

Choosing between the two will require more than just facts and figures. You'll need to drive both versions of the car noting idle quality and acceleration ability.

No place will the difference be more apparent than merging onto the freeway. From a steady speed of 40 miles per hour, try flooring the accelerator.

This is a great test of get-the-job-done engine torque and transmission coordination. Does the car inspire merging confidence?

Also take note of the sound and feel of the engine. Is it shrill or raspy, or does it have a deep and commanding voice? This simple test would do it for me.

Q Just in case you weren't lambasted multiple times for an answer to a question a couple of weeks ago, (and I haven't seen a retraction yet), but I believe that you recommended a gentleman put the two best tires on the rear wheels of his Honda Accord.

Most Accords are front-wheel drive, and I'm not an expert like you, but I would think the front tires should be in the best condition for FWD cars, to facilitate pulling and gripping of the road from the front.

The extreme would be bald tires in the front, with no traction to get going after a rainy-road stop. Otherwise, keep up the good work.

Bob Halstrom, San Jose, Calif.

I don't blame you for questioning my advice on this subject as it seems to fly in the face of conventional wisdom.

Front-wheel-drive vehicles, because of their strong front/rear weight bias, are a different breed of cat from the rear-drive vehicles most of us grew up with.

For an in-depth discussion of new/used tire placement and some test results from Michelin's Laurens Proving Grounds, go to www.tirerack.com/tires/tiretech/general/installnewtires.html.

Brad Bergholdt teaches automotive technology at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. E-mail him at underhood@juno.com or write to him in care of Drive, Mercury News, 750 Ridder Park Drive, San Jose, CA 95190. He cannot make personal replies.

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BMW 325i/525i/74

Wraps come off: 2005 Chevrolet Corvette

MOTOR MATTERS
Finally, the wraps came off the Chevrolet Corvette. General Motors unveiled the new generation sports car at Detroit's North American International Auto Show. It will travel the auto circuit and go into production summer.

The highlights: a compact new body that bears a similar silhouette but with sleeker body surfaces and improved aerodynamics; headlamps are exposed instead of pop-up, a new, upgraded interior; an engine that produces 400 horsepower and 400 pounds-foot of torque; beefier suspensions, brakes and transmission to accommodate more horsepower; and a more rigid structure.

"Our goal is to create a Corvette that does more things well (sic) than a performance car," said Dave DeSantis, engineer of the Corvette vehicle line executive for GM's Performance Cars, which also includes the Cadillac XLR.

We've developed new features recognizable as an evolution, yet subtle cues hint at its lineage to Corvette classics from 1963 to 1967. For instance, the side "coves" are intended to interpret a classic Corvette design cue in a new way, as does the line above the door which is meant to resemble the cut-into-the-roof door of the past.

MICHELLE KREBS
She's Freewheeling

were developed concurrently and are built at the same Bowling Green, Ky., assembly plant.

From the start, designers and engineers agreed the Corvette needed to be a smaller, tighter package to make it saleable in Europe and to make it look and feel more agile. It is 5 inches shorter than the current one — 3 inches less in front and 2 inches less in back.

At 0.28 coefficient of drag, it is the most aerodynamic Corvette ever. Achieving its aerodynamics was no easy task, said Chief Designer Tom Peters, who heads design for GM's performance cars.

Shorter overhangs, wider tire treads and rounded surfaces worked against aerodynamics. "Those things kept me up at night," he said.

The new Corvette is immediately recognizable as an evolution, yet subtle cues hint at its lineage to Corvette classics from 1963 to 1967. For instance, the side "coves" are intended to interpret a classic Corvette design cue in a new way, as does the line above the door which is meant to resemble the cut-into-the-roof door of the past.

"We wanted to deliver a powerful but simple statement with the initial look, but upon closer inspection, we want people to see more sophisticated surface development and transitions from one area to another," said Peters. He likened the design to music where you kind of like a song the first time you hear it and it grows to become your favorite over time.

Peters wanted the "face" to be more expressive, achieved through the exposed headlamps and grille. He said that among the hardest decisions the team had to make was the switch from pop-up headlamps, like those on the C5, to exposed ones, first used in 1962.

The new Corvette's headlamps are fixed High-Intensity Discharge lamps for seamless integration into the hood and better lighting. Traditional door handles are gone, replaced by an electronic pad that requires the key to only be in or near the car to open the doors or start the engine with the push button.

Inside, designers attempted to create an interior with improved materials and craftsmanship. The interior design theme continues the long-time Corvette cue of a twin-cockpit layout. Storage has been increased and cupholders improved.

The Corvette offers optional features such as a DVD navigation with



MOTOR MATTERS

DESIGNERS AND ENGINEERS agreed the Corvette needed to be a smaller, tighter package to make it saleable in Europe and to make it look and feel more agile.

voice activation (say "I'm hungry" and it lists restaurants), XM Satellite Radio and GM's OnStar communications system.

A Head-Up Display projected onto the windshield could be reconfigured for everyday driving, showing such things as speed and radio settings, or a track mode, showing more detail. Optional side airbags and heated seats are available —

firsts for Corvette.

Under the Corvette's long hood is a new version of GM's small-block V8. The LS2 is a 6.0-liter that delivers an estimated 400 horsepower and 400 pounds-foot of torque. The upgraded engine is standard with a six-speed manual or an optional four-speed automatic, beefed up to handle the additional power.

An electronic system on the automatic selects the optimal gear for the given driving condition. Buyers can choose one of three suspensions. Three dynamic chassis control systems are standard — anti-lock brakes, traction control and active handling.

Convertible and high-performance Z06 versions will be unveiled later.

Return VUE Red Line to be limited edition, Jaguar XKR Portfolio limited to 200 models

MOTOR MATTERS
The Saturn VUE Red Line limited edition will be powered by a supplied V6 engine.

It's \$21,960 all-wheel drive over vehicle can carry five passengers, or can be configured to carry 30 cubic feet of cargo. It's equipped with an advanced electric power steering system for precise steering at speeds and confident feel on the highway.

Red Line that goes into production in the first quarter of 2004 will be first in Saturn's new series of line-edged vehicles.

Shush-hush: U.S. automakers secretly adapting vehicles for their aging drivers.

Door handles that are easy for arthritic hands to grasp, softer font sizes and clearer dashboards gauges, the automakers are anticipating the upcoming boom of drivers.

They're doing it without fanfare because a young person won't hold person's car, according to National Automotive Dealers Association report.

Honest repair shops: Ask friends, family and co-workers to recommend a reputable shop for automotive repairs.

Automotive recommendations from relatives and even perfect friends account for 60 percent of buying decisions, according to National Automotive Parts Association report.

At the touch of a button: The soft-top operation on the all-new 2004 Saab 9-3 requires no manual involvement beyond pressing a button.

The roof on the \$42,500 convertible is hydraulically-powered, with automatic self-latching to the header rail, and deploys fully in just 20 seconds while the engine is running.

This is partly achieved by the convertible's tonneau, which has a unique two-step cycle, being completely raised horizontally and then

SPARE PARTS

Motor Matters

Performance Pirelli P Zero tires.

The XKR Portfolio has heavily bolstered R Performance Recaro leather sport seats and bronze-stained Sapele wood. The convertibles are available in two exterior colors: Coronado Blue or Jupiter Red.

Sonic Saab sales: Sales of Saab automobiles have taken off dramatically in the U.S. — the first time in 16 years.

Through October, Saab reports sales of more than 40,000 vehicles — its best year-to-date sales since 1987. Saab's newfound success is attributed to the popularity of the all-new Saab 9-3 sports sedan.

Toyota's U.S. expansion: Toyota plans a 98,000-square-foot expansion of its Erlanger, Ky., plant. The facility is the site of the automaker's quality and production engineering laboratory which controls parts, components and materials testing and warranty claim analysis.

By 2006, Toyota's North American operations will have the capacity to build 1.6 million automobiles and employ 34,000 workers.

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MOTOR MATTERS

SATURN'S VUE Red Line is one of the many "crossover" vehicles being introduced for 2004, above. Right, the Jaguar XKR Portfolio comes only in convertible style and is limited to just 200 models for 2004.

moved rearwards, parallel to the top of the trunk.

Better mileage: General Motors Corp. will put at least two million vehicles on the road by 2008 with new engines that incorporate technology to improve fuel economy by as much as 8 percent.

According to a report in the Detroit News, a computer in the engine senses how much power a vehicle requires and seamlessly disables or engages half or all of the cylinders without any action from the driver. This process is known as displacement on demand.

Options vary: Thirty-four percent of 50,000 respondents to a J.D. Power and Associates survey said they want side airbags.

Another survey reveals side airbags at the top of the list of 19 vehicle features respondents wanted, thus more automakers are offering side airbags as standard or optional equipment.

Yet, reported sales of optional side airbags are low.

RAISING AND LOWERING
the soft top on all-new 2004 Saab 9-3 is accomplished in just 20 seconds with hydraulic power and press of a button.

MOTOR MATTERS

JAGUAR XKR PORTFOLIO comes only in convertible style and is limited to just 200 models for 2004.

This special edition is powered by a 345 horsepower version of the 3.6-liter flat-six engine and has enhanced handling features. It will be built in a limited quantity of 1963 to recognize the year of the 911's debut.

But, the big news is about the grandchilden of the original 911. The 2004 Carrera 4S Cabriolet and Turbo Cabriolet stand out as significant models on their own. The Carrera 4S Cabriolet is the first version Porsche has offered of that model and the 2004 Turbo Cabriolet is the first 911 Turbo Cabriolet.

The major appearance differences between the two models are the Turbo Cabriolet's side air intakes, which are intended to feed air to the intercoolers of the turbochargers, and its rear wing, which raises at 75 miles per hour and lowers at 50 mph.

The Carrera 4S Cabriolet features the automatically deploying rear spoiler, found on the standard Carrera Coupe and Cabriolet.

The Carrera 4S Cabriolet and Turbo Cabriolet share the same chassis, suspension, and all-wheel drive system as the 911 Turbo coupe. Even though the body-shell of the 911 is quite stiff, a few modifications were needed to keep the structural integrity for the new cabriolets.

Thanks to the use of high-strength steel, and first-class engineering, the new 911 Cabriolet is about 4.5 percent torsionally stiffer than the standard 911 Cabriolet, yet is only 29 pounds heavier.

PSM, Porsche Stability Management, is standard on both new

Cabriolets, as is the all-wheel drive system. In this system, the rear wheels are driven directly, while the front wheels are connected through a viscous coupling.

All 911 Cabriolets employ two hidden supplemental safety bars as protection from rollovers. A special control unit uses butterfly and angle sensors that respond to both the angle and acceleration of the car. An additional g-force sensor detects any "lift-off."

The bars extend if the side angle of the car exceeds 51 degrees or the longitudinal angle exceeds 72 degrees, or if the car leaves the ground for more than 200 milliseconds with forces more than 0.1g.

The Carrera 4S Cabriolet is powered by the same engine found in the 911 Carrera Coupe, Cabriolet, Carrera 4S Coupe, and Carrera 4 Cabriolet. It produces 315 horsepower and moves the car from 0 to 62 mph in 5.3 seconds and to a top track speed of 174 mph.

As found in the 911 Turbo coupe, the 911 Turbo Cabriolet's engine is derived from the Porsche GT1 racecar. Incorporating dual turbochargers, it cranks out 415 horsepower and propels the car from 0 to 62 mph in just 4.3 seconds.

Both Cabriolet models are equipped with six-speed manual transmissions as standard. Both can also be ordered with the optional five-speed Tiptronic S automatic transmission system.

So, that's the latest from Porsche: Two new additions to the famed Porsche 911 model lineup.

The Carrera 4S sells for about \$94,000 while the Turbo lists for \$128,000. They aren't exactly cheap, but most Porsche aficionados will agree — you get what you pay for.

WHEELING

Half helmets and full helmets mean different things to different people. Half helmets come in virtually every size, with a varied level of approval, such as Department of Transportation-approved. You ride wearing a helmet with an acceptable safety approval — or no helmet at all — in states, "officer friendly" can be authority and present you with a citation which will cost you that you could have put into your riding.

Eye protection is recommended — regardless of your cycle having a windshield — goggles are the best bet, and are available with prescription lenses and a variety of tints as well as clear.

The half helmet is closer to a sense of freedom, but won't save your face or ears.

Beanies offer little or no real protection should you have the misfortune of going down, and most have no safety approval, although there are DOT-approved Kevlar units on the market to comply with the law where helmets are mandatory.

Gloves aren't required, but make good sense, especially in colder climates, for added comfort. Open fingered gloves provide a higher level of manual dexterity, like when fumbling for change at toll booths. Your palms and knuckles will thank you if a slide over

terra firma occurs.

Jackets (leather in particular) provide protection in the event of a slide and ward off the elements as well. Long pants are definitely a good thing, and chaps are that much better for those long distance rides.

Sport bike riders often wear full riding suits made of breathable, lightweight synthetic material.

Foul weather riding gear is optional, but if you're caught in an unexpected storm, it can make the difference between being comfortable and miserable.

Let's not forget proper footwear. There are no legal requirements that I'm aware of regarding footwear, but you'll want to consider non-skid sole material for putting your feet down to balance a heavy cruising or touring bike when stopping.

Covering your ankles is the consideration here.

I know if you ride a custom HOG, you probably think that helmets are for wimps, and that Beanies or Doo-rags are way cooler.

Sleeveless shirts and vests also make a fashion statement for cruiser types, along with John Lennon-style shades.

When riding, though, in terms of protection, more is always better.

This is where you need to do the math — less can mean more time incapacitated, as in "out of work," unable to ride and in pain, and that's if you're lucky. Make sure your equipment matches your riding style.

Plan ahead, ride safely, or as the Harley folks put it: "Live to Ride and Ride to Live." Protect yourself.

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terra firma occurs.

Jackets (leather in particular) provide protection in the event of a slide and ward off the elements as well. Long pants are definitely a good thing, and chaps are that much better for those long distance rides.

Sport bike riders often wear full riding suits made of breathable, lightweight synthetic material.

Foul weather riding gear is optional, but if you're caught in an unexpected storm, it can make the difference between being comfortable

and miserable.

Let's not forget proper footwear. There are no legal requirements that I'm aware of regarding footwear, but you'll want to consider non-skid sole material for putting your feet down to balance a heavy cruising or touring bike when stopping.

Covering your ankles is the consideration here.

I know if you ride a custom HOG, you probably think that helmets are for wimps, and that Beanies or Doo-rags are way cooler.

Sleeveless shirts and vests also make a fashion statement for cruiser types, along with John Lennon-style shades.

When riding, though, in terms of protection, more is always better.

This is where you need to do the math — less can mean more time incapacitated, as in "out of work," unable to ride and in pain, and that's if you're lucky. Make sure your equipment matches your riding style.

Plan ahead, ride safely, or as the Harley folks put it: "Live to Ride and Ride to Live." Protect yourself.

WHEELING

Half helmets and full helmets mean different things to different people. Half helmets come in virtually every size, with a varied level of approval, such as Department of Transportation-approved.

You ride wearing a helmet with an acceptable safety approval — or no helmet at all — in states, "officer friendly" can be authority and present you with a citation which will cost you that you could have put into your riding.

Eye protection is recommended — regardless of your cycle having a windshield — goggles are the best bet, and are available with prescription lenses and a variety of tints as well as clear.

The half helmet is closer to a sense of freedom, but won't save your face or ears.

Beanies offer little or no real

protection should you have the misfortune of going down, and most have no safety approval, although there are DOT-approved Kevlar units on the market to comply with the law where helmets are mandatory.

Gloves aren't required, but make good

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DOG Male, black & tan w/wh. Face, El Cerrito. Cat 925-526-3706

DOG - Male, no collar, 7 months, Clayton. Cat 925-672-5514.

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What do

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Tote cuisine: beyond
the bologna sandwich

BY MARIA GALLAGHER

The ladies haven't begun to change, but I've already seen one change. It's autumn and almost 10 a.m.

At my office market, an enormous sandwich bin filled each month with bologna sandwiches, a now-paled myth with brown lunch bags, 100 to a package. That's a lot of meat, and often, the lunches have to be made to take out and delivered food so ready and delicious.

It's time that growth curve stopped carrying us along to work. In the January 2001 issue of *American Demographics*, a December survey indicated that 20 percent of office workers bring home every day and bring a home-cooked meal at least once a week.

It's an effort. Roseanne Danner, a customer service associate with Physicians Insurance Co. in Moraga, prepares her lunch to work because, "I feel that the company cafeteria is very expensive." Now, however, she says, "I have a helper. Danner, 42, has lost nearly 60 pounds since joining Weight Watchers around 18

years ago.

"A lot of times, lunch is an after-work banana," Rodgers said, and some days, she does eat that until 4 p.m. if she and her staff don't eat together for lunch, they don't eat together. She adds, "I dig into a bowl of Grape Nuts with fruit and milk, yes, at her desk."

The real packed lunch does

not always mean a

pausa for a restaurant res-

taurant or a banana," Rodgers said,

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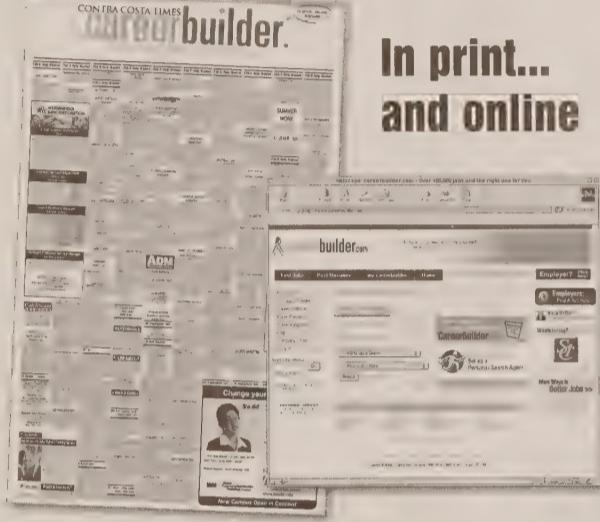
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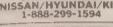
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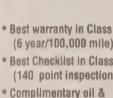
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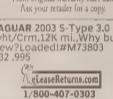
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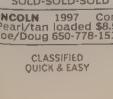
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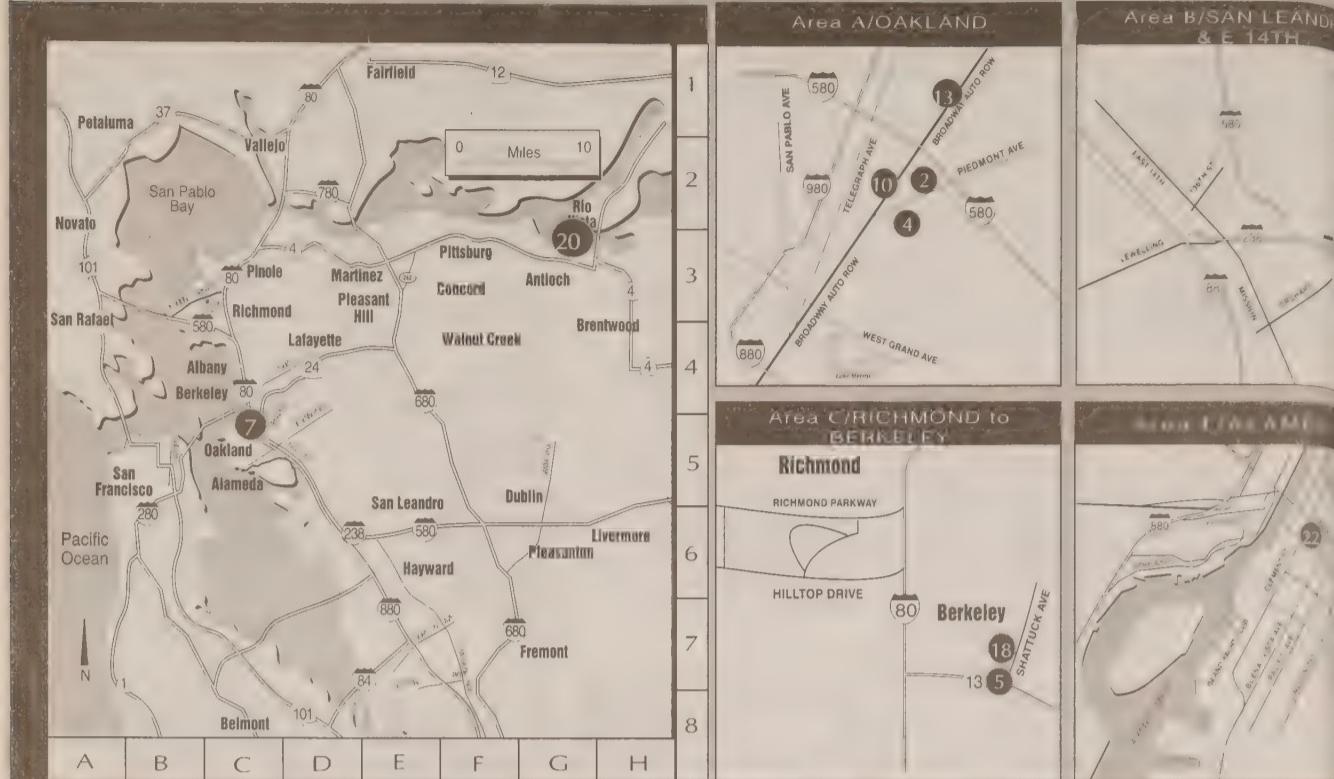
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OM LEFT: SALMON with strawberry-mango salsa, wild rice salad with citrus-ginger vinaigrette and frisee salad with strawberries.



CALIFORNIA STRAWBERRY COMMISSION/SUTTER HOME WINERY
OTTA SOUFFLE with Amaretto strawberries

Page 2

Quick and easy Valentines for kids to make



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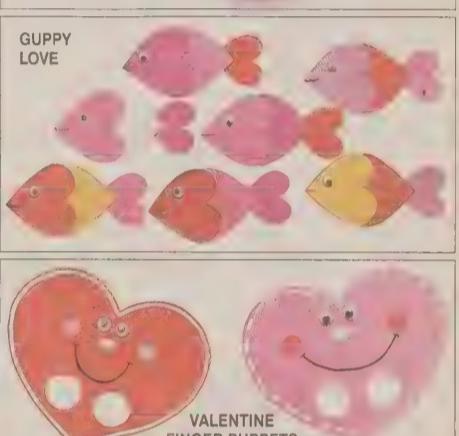


Kid's Valentine's — Page 2

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to say 'I like
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Page 2



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Cook up a little romance for your sweetheart with a Valentine's Day dinner for two

CALIFORNIA STRAWBERRY COMMISSION AND SUTTER HOME WINERY

Instead of competing for restaurant reservations on Valentine's Day, prepare a romantic dinner for two at home. Even a kitchen novice can create a four-star meal for a sweet heart with a few simple recipes.

California strawberries put true romance on the menu with their vibrant red color and heart-like shape. Begin with Frisée Salad With Strawberries, followed by a main course of Salmon With Strawberry-Mango Salsa served with Wild Rice Salad With Citrus-Ginger Vinaigrette. A light, fluffy Ricotta Soufflé With Amaretto Strawberries adds a perfectly sweet ending.

Pouring the wine sets the mood for a relaxing meal. Sutter Home Winery Chef Jeffrey Starr offers his advice for choosing a wine for this special meal. "Select a wine that highlights the flavors of the meal without overpowering them. For this Valentine's Day menu, I'd choose White Zinfandel or Sauvignon Blanc. Their light, fruity flavors balance the spice of the salsa."

WILD RICE SALAD WITH CITRUS-GINGER VINAIGRETTE

1 cup cooked white rice
1 cup cooked wild rice
1/4 cup chopped green onion
2 tablespoons chopped red bell pepper
1-1/2 tablespoons finely chopped mint
1/4 cup coarsely chopped, toasted macadamia nuts
2 tablespoons orange juice
1 tablespoon rice vinegar
1 tablespoon soy sauce

1 tablespoon minced garlic
1-1/2 teaspoons minced ginger
1-1/2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
1-1/2 teaspoons brown sugar
1/4 cup Asian sesame oil
Salt and pepper

In large bowl, mix white and wild rice, green onion, bell pepper, mint and macadamia nuts. In small bowl, whisk orange juice, vinegar, soy sauce, garlic, ginger, mustard and sugar until thoroughly blended. Whisk in sesame oil; season with salt and pepper. Pour over rice mixture and stir to combine.

Prep time: 15 minutes, makes 2 servings.
Created by Chef Jeffrey Starr of Sutter Home Winery.

Salmon With STRAWBERRY-MANGO SALSA

Strawberry-Mango Salsa:
1 cup quartered, stemmed California strawberries
1/2 cup diced mango
1/4 cup diced red bell pepper
2 tablespoons diced red onion
1-1/2 tablespoons rice vinegar
2 teaspoons chopped mint
1-1/2 teaspoons brown sugar
1 to 2 canned chipotle chiles in adobo, rinsed, seeded and finely minced*

Salt:
Salmon:
2 (6-ounce) skinless salmon fillets
1 tablespoon olive oil
Salt and pepper

To make salsa, in bowl, combine strawberries, mango, bell pepper, onion, vinegar, mint, sugar and chipotles; stir together gently with rubber spatula or wooden spoon. Season with salt. Refrigerate, cov-

ered, up to 8 hours.

Preheat broiler. Brush salmon on both sides with oil; season with salt and pepper. Place on baking sheet. Broil salmon 4 inches from broiler element 4 to 6 minutes or until done. Transfer to 2 plates and spoon Strawberry-Mango Salsa over salmon.

Prep time: 20 minutes, cook time: 6 to 8 minutes, makes 2 servings.

*Created by Chef Jeffrey Starr of Sutter Home Winery.

*Chipotle chiles in adobo are available in Latin markets or substitute dried chipotles. Soak dried chipotles in hot water until soft, stem, seed and mince.

FRÉSÉ SALAD WITH STRAWBERRIES

Verjus Vinaigrette:
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
1/2 teaspoon minced shallot
1/2 teaspoon minced thyme
2 tablespoons verjus*

1 tablespoon walnut oil
Salt and pepper

Salad:
1/2 cup walnut halves
1 tablespoon sugar Kosher salt
3 cups frisée lettuce, washed
1 cup sliced, stemmed California strawberries

3 ounces creamy blue cheese or mild goat cheese, crumbled

In small bowl, whisk mustard, shallot, thyme, parsley and verjus. Slowly whisk in oil. Season with salt and pepper.

In skillet over low heat, heat walnuts, stirring frequently, about 2 minutes or until hot. Sprinkle

with sugar and cook, stirring constantly, about 2 minutes or until sugar melts and nuts are well coated and toasted. Transfer to bowl and season to taste with salt. Stir frequently while cooling to prevent nuts from sticking together.

To assemble, in large bowl, toss frisée with just enough verjus vinaigrette to coat lightly. Mound frisée on two plates, dividing equally. Toss strawberries with remaining vinaigrette; arrange on frisée. Sprinkle cheese and walnuts on top.

Prep time: 10 minutes, cook time: 5 minutes, makes 2 servings.

*Created by Chef Jeffrey Starr of Sutter Home Winery.

*Verjus, a tart liquid made from unripe grapes, is available in specialty stores. If unavailable, substitute 1 tablespoon lemon juice and 1 tablespoon white wine vinegar.

RICOTTA SOUFFLÉ WITH AMARETTO STRAWBERRIES

Amaretto Strawberries:
2 cups (12 ounces) sliced, stemmed California strawberries

3 tablespoons amaretto (almond liqueur)*

2 tablespoons confectioners' sugar

Ricotta Soufflé:
Softened butter, for soufflé dish

Granulated sugar, for soufflé dish

2 cups (1 pound) part-skim ricotta cheese

1/3 cup granulated sugar

4 eggs, divided

3 tablespoons unseasoned dry bread crumbs

2 tablespoons all-purpose flour

1/2 teaspoon almond extract

1/4 cup chopped, toasted al-

monds, Confectioners' sugar, for garnish (recipe follows)

To make Amaretto Strawberries:

In bowl, gently stir all ingredients together to dissolve sugar; refrigerate covered, up to 3 hours.

To make Ricotta Soufflé:

Heat to 375°F. Generously butter a 4-cup soufflé dish; coat with sugar, shaking out excess. In bowl of electric mixer, beat cheese, granulated sugar, 3 eggs and 1 egg yolk, bread crumbs, flour and extract until thoroughly blended. In small bowl, whisk remaining egg white until stiff but not dry; gently fold into cheese mixture. Pour into prepared soufflé dish.** Bake in center of oven 40 to 45 minutes or until puffed and lightly browned. Cool on rack at least 5 minutes or up to 1 hour. Loosen edges with knife and invert onto serving plate with a wide rim; sprinkle with almonds and dust with confectioners' sugar. Serve with Amaretto Strawberries.

Prep time: 25 minutes, cook time: 45 minutes, makes 4 servings.

Recipe from California Strawberry Commission.

*1/2 teaspoon almond extract can be substituted for the amaretto.

**For individual soufflés, use four 1-cup soufflé dishes; bake 20 to 25 minutes.

Wine and dine

Sutter Home Winery Chef Jeffrey Starr offers some additional tips for perfect wine pairings for your perfect pair.

■ Hearty steaks or robust tomato-sauced pastas meld with

the bold flavors of Sutter Cabernet Sauvignon.

■ Spicy Latin and Asian pair well with a fruity Pinot Chardonnay.

■ For dishes with cream-based sauces, Chardonnay.

■ Try roasted or grilled with the blackberry, citrus or spice of a Sutter Home Chardonnay.

■ For additional food pairing suggestions and Take strawberries.

Beyond their heart- and delicious flavor, shows that strawberries reduce the risk of heart disease, lower blood pressure, and are nearly year-round and "berry-healthy" choices for Valentine's Day celebrations.

CHOCOLATE-DIPPED STRAWBERRIES

Melt 1/2 cup semisweet chocolate chips according to directions.

Dip fresh, whole California strawberries in chocolate to cover 3/4 of each berry. Lay on paper-lined baking sheets and refrigerate until set.

STRAWBERRIES IN BALSAMIC VINEGAR

Mix 1 pint sliced, halved California strawberries with 2 spoons each balsamic vinegar and sugar. Refrigerate for 1 hour, then serve in stemmed glasses.

For more "berry" recipes, visit www.californiastrawberries.com.

Quick and easy Valentines for your kids to make

FAMILY FUN MAGAZINE

These cute — and unique — Valentine's Day card ideas are quick and easy to make for all those who are young at heart.

The candy carrier

Cap off Valentine's Day with this stylish tote, cleverly made from a party hat.

To make one candy carrier, you need: four minutes, 70 cents, plus candy.

1. Flatten a cone-shaped party hat and cut the lobes of a heart into the top edges, as shown.

Decorate one side with stickers and use a paint pen or permanent marker to write your name at the base of the shovel, just below the candy bag.

it to the handle of a toy sand shovel. (We found a good selection of shovels at www.iparty.com for 40 cents apiece.)

2. Use a paint pen or permanent marker to write your message at the base of the shovel, just below the candy bag.

Message ideas:

■ I dig you!
■ Here's the scoop on Valentine's Day
■ It's Valentine's Day — dig it!

■ You've got the scoop on me!

Feet-heart

What valentine is special enough for your soul mates? This gem of a card — drawn from the bottoms of your soles!

To make one feet-heart, you need: five minutes, 75 cents.

1. Have someone help you trace your feet on colored card stock or heavy construction paper and cut out the shapes (use them as a template to make more cards).

2. Glue two feet at the heels from a heart, as shown, and use a paint pen or marker to pen a message.

3. Glue flat-bottomed plastic jewels (available at craft stores) to the toes for polished nails.

Message ideas:

■ You're my sole mate

I get a kick out of you
I'd walk a mile for you
We're off on the right foot
You are too nice!

Be mine Band-Aids

For sheer fun, turn ordinary bandages into these snazzy temporary tattoos.

To make one Band-Aid, you need: one minute and 5 cents.

1. Decorate a plain Band-Aid with a paint pen or permanent marker.

2. Add stickers, if desired.

Message ideas:

■ I'm stuck on you
■ Let's stick together
■ You make me feel better
■ I'm there if you get into a scrape.

Guppy love

Fishing for compliments this Valentine's Day? These little swimmers made of hearts should earn oceans of praise.

To make one guppy, you need: three minutes and 5 cents.

1. From colored card stock or heavy construction paper, cut two large heart shapes for the fish's body and one small one for the tail.

2. Glue together the three hearts to make a fish shape, as shown.

3. Use a paint pen or marker

to write a message on the back, then add a mouth and a googly eye to the front.

Message ideas:

■ Best fishes this Valentine's Day

You're oceans of fun!
May your fishes come true this Valentine's Day!

Valentine finger puppet

Young hearts (and fingers) will dance at the sight of these lively paper puppets - which are a snap to make.

To make one finger puppet, you need: three minutes and 5 cents.

1. Cut a heart from colored card stock or heavy construction paper (use it as a template to make more).

2. Punch a starter hole for each finger with a hole punch, then use scissors to enlarge the circle; your fingers should fit snugly through the holes.

3. Decorate the heart with a paint pen or marker, adding facial features, and write your message on the back.

Glue on a googly eye.

Message ideas:

■ I'm your puppet
■ You make my heart dance
■ Let's dance!

For more great Valentine ideas go to: familyfun.go.com.

BY ALAN J. HEAVENS
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

With Valentine's Day right around the corner, here's a cheap way to tell someone you like them:

Duct tape roses

Actually, Duck Tape roses, since the instructions come from the folks at Duck Brand tape.

First, you'll need red duct tape, green duct tape, and thin floral wire, all of which you can get at the local hardware store.

1. Cut several strips of duct tape about two inches long.

2. Sticky side up, fold one edge over itself, leaving some stickiness on the side and bottom.

3. Take the parallel edge and fold it over, leaving only stickiness on the bottom of the strip.

4. Roll this across tightly, since this is the center of your rose.

Repeating Steps 2 through 4 with more strips of duct tape loosely wrap the center (these are petals).

Continue until the desired size is reached.

For the stem, take

piece of floral wire and strip

of duct tape (this should be about a half-inch wide).

Place the wire on the

parallel to it, and roll the

across, wrapping it tightly around.

Finally, insert the

the half-inch of wire — that doesn't have tape on it — into the rose. Make a loop (Steps 2 and 3) and secure the stem.

These flowers are great

something you could do for the kids. As a replacement real roses . . . I don't

Duck has more uses for duct tape. The site is www.ducktapecrafts.com.

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Take this the year you install a new water garden for mood and pleasure

NORMAN WINTER
STAFF WRITER
NORMAN WINTER IS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. HE IS AN AUTHOR AND SPEAKER ON THE SUBJECT OF WATER FEATURES.

As I sat down to watch, listen and to enjoy for 30 minutes or more, the mood and pleasure created by this active water can be duplicated in any landscape.

Water features have become popular all across the country in recent years. They add more value and enjoyment. You may want to make this the year for a do-it-yourself water feature in your landscape. Before you make that purchase, however, there are some key considerations.

A peaceful and soothing water feature is a dramatic addition to the landscape and in cases becomes the focal point. It also becomes a place to sit, watch and relax. Any water feature can be made more enjoyable with water. Water adds a cooling, calming element to a

hectic world. There are two primary types of water features to choose from: active and passive.

Passive water moves only by a breeze like an earthened pond or perhaps a concrete pond. We have all watched the wind create tiny ripples on a pond.

But with the addition of plants like irises, lilies ferns and umbrella plants your passive water pond then becomes a wonderful and unique garden. If you think flowers can't be pretty in a water garden you haven't looked at water lilies lately.

Active water is different in that it moves, such as a cascading, rocky waterfall or a babbling brook. Active water features open up a new sensory perception - sound.

It is peaceful and soothing to listen to water move. This is evident in all of the tapes and compact discs sold that have water sounds to help listeners relax. Waterfalls are also extra special in that they create vertical movement. Water also can flow out of decorative containers or fountains,

and those are usually a smaller hit on the pocketbook.

So before you make your purchase decide on whether you want active or passive, formal or more natural. A water feature is sure to enhance your landscape and make your outdoors more enjoyable.

Nurseries and garden centers now stock everything you need to install your own water garden including aquatic plants and koi. Koi are the large goldfish-looking fish that seem to get more valuable with age.

Just about anyone can install water features. Fountains are available from those molded out of masonry, wooden barrels and even those created from metal. It may seem confusing on where to start, so by all means talk to your nurserymen about your goals before you buy.

If you doubt your ability to make the garden fit your landscape, don't fret because the solution to your dilemma may be just around the corner. Many garden centers and nurseries have water

garden professionals including landscape architects that have the talent and expertise to both design and install water gardens and fountains to make your home the envy of the neighborhood.



THE MOOD AND PLEASURE created by this active water can be duplicated in any landscape.

KRT PHOTOGRAPH

Students' show of interest affecting college entry

BY NAHAL TOOSI
STAFF WRITER

MILWAUKEE — It was the third time Rachel Carter filled out some information card from Washington University, and almost didn't bother, thinking it needlessly repetitive.

As a university representative, then a student at White High School, to do so anything, she said, "Fill it out because keep track of how many times we're in contact with us," said '99, who is now a freshman in Washington.

She didn't know this, and, as it turned out, it might not have made a difference, but GWU not only tracks number of contacts it has with a prospective student, it also uses the information in the admissions process.

"The fairly new and controversial college admissions called demonstrated interest," where admissions officers try gauging how interested a student is in their institution before deciding whether to admit them.

It's usually not as important as point average or standardized tests, demonstrated interest serve as a critical swing factor, an edge to some students in highly competitive, and very deep, applicant pools.

According to a recent survey by National Association for College Counseling tries to measure how common the practice is in admissions offices. Regarding one question, 33 percent of colleges said they consider demonstrated interest. When the surveyed schools to describe how important a factor it was, 30 percent said it was of "considerable" or

"moderate" importance in the admissions process, while 26 percent said it was of "limited" importance. The organization received 595 responses to its survey.

Private universities, especially elite institutions in the Northeast, are more likely to use the factor than public schools, experts said.

"The more selective the institution, the lower the rate of admission, and the more important data driven from demonstrated interest becomes," said Lloyd Peterson, vice president of education at College Coach, an educational consulting company in Newton, Mass.

What counts as interest? The emails students send to admissions officers, the tours they take on campus, the amount of literature they request and more. Thanks to special software, tracking the quantifiable information is simple. Also important are less numerical items, such as whether a student's essay focuses on the school.

A classic display of interest is applying to a school through an early decision program. Such programs are binding, meaning if a student gets in to a school, they have to go there.

"The No. 1 way we look at demonstrated interest is whether the student self-initiated an inquiry," said Nancy Monnich, a top admissions officer at Beloit College. "Did the student send an e-mail, write a letter or call? If a student initiates that interest, that's a big-time factor."

At Milwaukee's Mount Mary College, "where it plays a role is probably most strongly with students who don't meet the direct admissions requirements," said Amy Dobson, dean of enrollment. "If they made the effort to come on campus, really take

a look at the school, get a feel for the institution, then can reflect in an admissions essay about why she's choosing to apply here and why the characteristics make it a strong choice ... that can speak volumes."

But the whole idea of demonstrated interest — also known as demonstrable or perceived interest — has provoked plenty of anxiety in academic circles.

For one thing, some say college rankings are the true driving force behind the growing use of demonstrated interest. The method is a way of ensuring higher yield - the number of students accepted by a school who actually enroll. Yield has been a key factor considered by some outlets that rank universities.

Other concerns revolve around the effect the practice has on students. Students from low-income households, for instance, might not be able to afford the trips to campus, the long-distance phone calls or the e-mail access. Students attending wealthy private schools are more likely to have better counseling and more likely to be aware of demonstrated interest to begin with.

Plus, as more students catch on to the scheme, the admissions process gets more stressful and becomes more of a game.

"It rewards strategizing," said Ted O'Neill, dean of undergraduate admissions at the University of Chicago, which he said doesn't use demonstrated interest in its decisions. "Once you start to strategize, who knows what's sincere?"

Others in the field insist they are savvy enough to see through fake interest demonstrated by applicants and to take into account each student's circumstances, such as whether the student lives abroad and

can't visit.

"We never will choose not to admit someone that we otherwise would admit simply because they have no demonstrated level of interest," said Steve Sverson, dean of admissions and financial aid at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wis.

Yet, it's something even cynical students and their high school counselors are less willing to ignore as college admissions gets more competitive.

Carla Oile, a college adviser at Divine Savior Holy Angels High School, said students are encouraged to keep in touch with prospective colleges, including sending them notices when they win awards or are on the college campus.

It's especially important for students who face deferments or are placed on waiting lists, Oile said. "I don't tell them they have to send a slipper or a shoe or a big video," she said. "Make it reasonable."

Unreasonable interest can work against a student. Admissions officers don't like to be harassed — there's a reason so many don't list their home phone numbers.

It's one thing to send an e-mail to the admissions dean. It's another thing to enlist dozens of

friends in a letter writing campaign on a student's behalf.

There are legends of students who mail doors or send singing telegrams, and supplying the admissions committee with cookies is fairly unoriginal these days.

"Borderline inappropriate is sending the parents in on their behalf," Dobson said.

Peterson, a former head of admissions at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., recalled a young visual artist who sent his office a large piece of plywood covered in jellybeans.

The jellybeans were maroon and white, Vassar's colors, and they spelled out, "Vassar is my No. 1 choice." The school chose not to demonstrate its interest in her.

Factors in admission

A survey of admissions officers around the nation shows that "demonstrated interest" in a school is becoming a factor in whether a prospective student is admitted. Nearly 600 officers responded to the survey.

Here is the percentage of admissions officers who said the following factors are of moderate or considerable importance in admission:

- Grades in college-prep courses: 89 percent
- Standardized admission tests: 86 percent

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■ Grades in all courses: 85 percent

■ Class rank: 68 percent

■ Counselor recommendation: 59 percent

■ Essay or writing sample: 58 percent

■ Teacher recommendation: 57 percent

■ Work or extracurricular activities: 47 percent

■ Interview: 36 percent

■ Student's demonstrated interest: 30 percent

■ Subject tests (SAT II, AP, IB): 25 percent

■ Race and ethnicity: 19 percent

■ Scores on state graduation exam: 18 percent

■ Ability to pay: 8 percent

■ State or county of residence: 8 percent

■ Source: National Association of College Admission Counseling

A student's to-do list

Among the ways a high school student can demonstrate interest in a university:

- E-mails to admissions officers.
- Taking campus tours.
- Requesting literature.
- Making the prospective school the focus of a required essay.
- Applying to the school through an early decision program. This requires the student to attend the school if accepted.

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Dads band together for the sheer love and joy of rock 'n' roll music

BY TONY HICKS
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

WALNUT CREEK — It usually starts with a tickle. It may come from digging up an old demo or hearing a certain song on the radio or MTV. Even if an old rock band guy tries ignoring it, the tickle soon becomes an itch.

Pretty soon the old telephone book emerges from a desk drawer and dusty old gear descends from the rafters. Old friends may gather to tell war stories. At some point, one of the middle-aged, career-oriented family men may work up the courage to use the "B" word in a sentence: Band.

"It's the Elwood Blues syndrome: 'We're putting the band back together,'" says longtime band guy Jim Lautz, owner of a production company, who swears he was once the Mick Jagger of San Bernardino, Calif.

"We affectionately call them geezer bands."

It's a thriving demographic that manages to stay under the radar. But the Bay Area is full of middle-age musicians who had stars in their eyes decades ago, only to grow up and get jobs and families. These guys are rising up.

They're firing up their amps in garages, bars and rec halls all over. They were the ones who grew up idolizing the Beatles and Zeppelin, yet couldn't get there themselves. Now they'll settle for the simple feeling of playing music again.

Young musicians are easy to spot — young and grubby, young and well-groomed, young and carrying instruments, young with piercings and purple hair, young and broke.

Not these guys (and gals in some cases). Part of the natural outgrowth of so many youngsters responding to the various rock-music explosions of the '60s, '70s and even '80s is that those musicians had to eventually grow up and out of an industry that often dooms newcomers over 30. With enough pressure, off goes the hair, in comes a mortgage, a minivan and a 401(k).

Life proceeds for years, maybe decades. Then comes the itch.

"In April 2002, I got the call," explains Lautz, a drummer and singer who knew some older guys who played around for fun. "They were booked to play in the park in Orinda July 4. The drummer couldn't make it. I sat in on one rehearsal and it was the first time I'd played in 30 years.

"I was surprised. It was like riding a bike. When I sat down for the first time I said 'The (former drummer) is toast.'

Only days later, the now-53-year-old Lautz was making band logos and talking about making demos, like he was 17 again. He doesn't remember if his new bandmates in Stone Soup ever told the previous drummer he was fired.

"It was so much fun," Lautz says. "I wish I would have done it a long time ago."

It can be like an addiction. The beauty of one getting back to playing in a band after a number of years is that it's almost always for love. No one's trying to make it big anymore, and rarely is it about money. Lautz's band once played at a golf tourney for greens fees.

"You know that feeling when you're tight and you hit it, and there's no better feeling in the world," Lautz says. "That's when people who come see you get into it."

Eternal optimism is usually the hook for middle-aged guys. The talent didn't leave. Life just changed. The advantage is having something they probably lacked the first time around — money.

"We were banging on whatever we could back then," says John Ingram, 49, who started playing in bands in the late '60s in junior high and high school in Pleasant Hill, Calif., and later turned down a chance to move to L.A. to work

as a songwriter. "If only we would have had all this (gear) back then. I just bought my 15th guitar."

Ingram chose starting a family over music, going to work at Safeway in the early '70s. Now he's a manager of a worker's comp organization who got back together with some of his old band friends about a year ago, calling the project Nightlife.

It's all for fun — and the occasional public appearance. And like many others, any regrets get wiped away when the music starts.

"The decision was whether to start a family or go down there and try to make it like a thousand other guys working as waiters," says Ingram, who nevertheless has since had periodic bouts of getting serious. His former band, the John Lee Ingram Band, got consistent enough in the '80s to function as the house band at Hobie's in Concord.

"There's always the threat of taking it seriously again," says Ingram, who plays rock covers in Nightlife and also dabbles in a jazz band. "You sit down at rehearsal, you run through a song, it's good, and you look at each other and start thinking ..."

Sometimes, it's an excuse to build a home studio — like Lautz's bandmate Steve Meckfessel, who built a rehearsal room in his house. Others go the more "professional" route by renting time in outside studios.

Dave Salka, a manager at Oakland's Soundwave Studios, says there's plenty of older guys coming through, playing all different types of music.

"They're all bands to me, but there's less youngsters coming through here," Lopez says of the studio where bands such as Faith No More and Metallica once rehearsed. "The majority of bands coming through here are over 40 — probably because they have jobs and money to book time. You have guys doing it for fun, then you have the lifers."

Despite no longer chasing the almighty record contract, some bands still can't shake wanting to play live.

"They still jones for it," says Chris Lommori, who books bands at Cadillac Ranch and Bourbon Street in Concord. "They have day jobs and even have their own businesses."

Lommori's shows are by no means a senior circuit. But there is an age mix of bands that reflect a growing older rock fan demographic. Bands made up of players in their early 20s can be on the same bill as musicians in their early 40s, with little discernible difference in ability.

"A lot of the guys were in bands in the '80s even, there's a bunch of them," she says. "They hunt me down and ask me if I'm still booking and I'm like 'Oh my God — you're still playing!'

Yet when some say it's really just about playing, they mean it.

"We do it purely for our own amusement," says Jim Paizis, a 50-year-old human resources director from Danville who gets together a couple of times a month with three friends to play acoustic music, without an audience. That wasn't the case back in the late '60s when, still in school, he played folk music locally in a group patterned after Peter, Paul & Mary.

"We decided we just enjoyed the spontaneous fun of it," Paizis says.

"We decided not to try to be polished or good. We've got to the point where we don't need to impress anyone. Our evenings are about drinking beer and playing music. It's a terrific form of male bonding."

The bands that do play live mostly rely on covers, considering that an adult life doesn't always allow time for songwriting.

Dave Salka's band, Radio Activity, just played its first gig at Meenar's in Danville. For a first show, it was a fairly large all-ages crowd that spent much of the night dancing to covers ranging from Wild Cherry's "Play That Funky Music" to No Doubt's "Just a Girl."

"It was much anticipated and a great night," says Salka, 43, a respiratory therapist and single parent living in Concord. The drummer got started in local bands while at Walnut Creek's Northgate High School, but quit in his early 20s.

"I just love to play, I don't know how else to say it," he says. "I had to change my work schedule and, as far as home stuff, it can get in the way. It's both a thrill and a pain in the rear. But it's an addiction."

One thing they all share is a love for the music that, even if they quit for a while, lingered long enough to return them to playing later in life.

"We're comfortable just to dabble back in for the joy of it," says Tim Tobin, a 45-year-old Walnut Creek resident and owner of a construction company who plays keyboards at about five gigs a year for Random 6. "We're good enough now where we're just looking at each other and getting into the zone playing."

Not only are middle-aged rockers popping up where few existed before, but there's a whole new take for the next generation. Thirty years ago, very few parents were endorsing their daughter's choice of musician boyfriends.

"My daughter is dating a metal drummer," Ingram says. "She's at the same age my wife was when we were out on the scene. So her mother and her have some pretty interesting conversations."

Getting the band back together?

Pop superstardom is mostly for the young. But simply playing in a band is no longer just a game for kids. There's a lot of retired amateur rockers out there, chomping at the bit to get out and play again. There's no reason not to — with a few things in mind:

■ Have clear expectations. If your last gig was opening for Quicksilver Messenger Service and you're not already famous, you probably won't get a record deal. Who cares? Record companies stopped being cool years ago.

■ Clear it with the family. There's nothing worse than surprising your partner with your new hobby by spending \$3,000 on new drums and secretly inviting the guys over. This shouldn't be a big deal. If they've never seen you play, they'll think you're something of a rock star. Let them. Just don't start dressing like your kids.

■ Have clear goals. If you just want to work the occasional party playing cover songs and you find yourself in a band with three guys looking to make a living on the road with originals, you're in trouble. Sketch out exactly what you want to do with bandmates when it comes to rehearsals, gigs and demo tapes. Then do it. This should cut down on the inevitable band politics.

■ Be prepared to spend some money. Music is at least as expensive as playing golf. You may need an equipment upgrade. Demo tapes cost as well. And don't ever believe that you'll recoup the cash with gigs if you're not a semi-serious working band. Of course, if you have enough money to build a home studio, go forth.

■ Don't worry about being bad. Who cares? You'll get better. Old guys not fighting puberty and pimples always play better than when they were young. Always focus on the fun. Yet don't forget to pose when you play. It's important.

Even middle-aged musicians should still dream of being rock stars.

Five reasons to use a primer before painting to avoid wall problems la

MS

A common misconception among do-it-yourselfers (DIYers) is the expectation that two coats of quality paint will be sufficient to cover previous wall problems. In reality, if a wall is not prepared properly, even multiple coats of expensive paint cannot cover the surface adequately.

"Primer and paint are not the same," says Salka, 43, a respiratory therapist and single parent living in Concord. The drummer got started in local bands while at Walnut Creek's Northgate High School, but quit in his early 20s.

"I just love to play, I don't know how else to say it," he says. "I had to change my work schedule and, as far as home stuff, it can get in the way. It's both a thrill and a pain in the rear. But it's an addiction."

One thing they all share is a love for the music that, even if they quit for a while, lingered long enough to return them to playing later in life.

"We're comfortable just to dabble back in for the joy of it," says Tim Tobin, a 45-year-old Walnut Creek resident and owner of a construction company who plays keyboards at about five gigs a year for Random 6. "We're good enough now where we're just looking at each other and getting into the zone playing."

Not only are middle-aged rockers popping up where few existed before, but there's a whole new take for the next generation. Thirty years ago, very few parents were endorsing their daughter's choice of musician boyfriends.

"My daughter is dating a metal drummer," Ingram says. "She's at the same age my wife was when we were out on the scene. So her mother and her have some pretty interesting conversations."

Walsh says primer is essential for the following reasons:

1. Priming seals the surface, assuring a smooth base for your topcoat of paint.

2. Priming maximizes topcoat hide, so it's ideal for color changes.

3. Priming increases paint coverage and topcoat adhesion.

4. Priming promotes sistent sheen and un-

sired look.

Slick surfaces such as block and ceramic tile previously painted gloss such as cabinets and could cause the paint not to prime first.

5. Priming promotes sistent sheen and un-

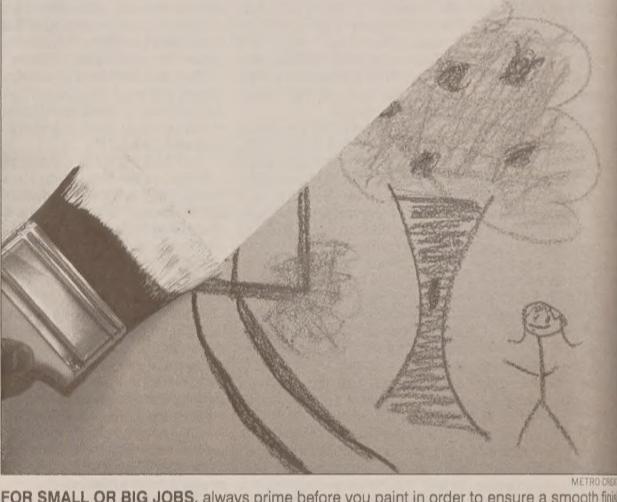
Once you have a paint sheen (flat, satin, high gloss) that best needs, prime the area that your topcoat and will stay true to the have chosen.

6. Priming seals the mold and water damage don't bleed through paint.

Bathrooms, basements, other moisture-prone areas are likely to have mildew growth. Premium contains a to help retard mold and mildew growth on the primer.

Primers are available in water-based formulas and/or exterior applications. Less formulas for interior are available.

To find what primer your household needs PRIMER-1 or visit www.



FOR SMALL OR BIG JOBS, always prime before you paint in order to ensure a smooth finish consistent, long-lasting color.

The tangled Web of online dating

BY ERIC EDWARDS
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

There are ways to tell when a behavioral trend has officially moved from the fringes into the mainstream. One is when NBC bases a Thursday night sitcom on it, and another is when your mother tells you it's a good idea. But a trend has completely solidified when someone makes a "Dummies" book about it.

■ Clear it with the family. There's nothing worse than surprising your partner with your new hobby by spending \$3,000 on new drums and secretly inviting the guys over. This shouldn't be a big deal. If they've never seen you play, they'll think you're something of a rock star. Let them. Just don't start dressing like your kids.

■ Have clear goals. If you just want to work the occasional party playing cover songs and you find yourself in a band with three guys looking to make a living on the road with originals, you're in trouble. Sketch out exactly what you want to do with bandmates when it comes to rehearsals, gigs and demo tapes. Then do it. This should cut down on the inevitable band politics.

■ Be prepared to spend some money. Music is at least as expensive as playing golf. You may need an equipment upgrade. Demo tapes cost as well. And don't ever believe that you'll recoup the cash with gigs if you're not a semi-serious working band. Of course, if you have enough money to build a home studio, go forth.

■ Don't worry about being bad. Who cares? You'll get better. Old guys not fighting puberty and pimples always play better than when they were young. Always focus on the fun. Yet don't forget to pose when you play. It's important.

Even middle-aged musicians should still dream of being rock stars.

The authors of both guides hope to clear up the myths of online dating by offering their experiences and the experiences of others as both cautionary tales and templates for success.

The "Dummies" guide appeals to the rational-minded dater. It looks upon the services as efficient and painless methods of meeting age-appropriate, like-minded singles.

The argument is compelling. Most people in search of relationships are going about their daily activities, hoping to meet someone special. Yet just thinking about it.

So when I ran across "Online Dating for Dummies," I knew Internet dating had finally arrived.

Online dating has been around since Al Gore invented the Internet as a way to pick up women. But it has always had a scent of creepiness associated with it, as if users of online dating services were S&M fetishists looking for someone to lure into their torture chambers — not that there's anything wrong with that.

Even today, there is the not-completely-unfounded idea that finding love on the Web is a bit dangerous and difficult. This is what has created a market for how-to manuals to help people navigate the murky waters of the Internet singles scene.

In fact, the smart people who publish the "Dummies" series are not the only ones offering such dating advice. "I Can't Believe I'm Buying This Book: A Commonsense Guide to Successful Internet Dating" also hit the shelves recently.

■ Do be prepared to spend some money. The "Dummies" book costs \$12.99. The "Commonsense" book costs \$14.95. Both are available at most bookstores and online.

■ Don't post a misleading profile.

■ Do come up with a good profile.

"Funny guy with killer smile" is a good profile. "Funny guy with killer smile" is not a good profile.

■ Do be prepared to be rejected.

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Secrets to solving any carpet stains

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proper care, carpet can beauty and comfort in your for many years. Although inevitable, today's carpet may combined with prompt removal can ensure full removal of stains. The carpet experts at Wear-Dated, Inc., makers of Wear-Dated fiber, offer effective solution for your next spill.

For spills, a wet/dry vacuum is a weapon for use in stain strategy. Use the attachment, the vacuum, and vacuum up the liquid as possible. Add water to the spot as you go to vacuum. If needed, add amount of detergent spot.

If the stain is removed, rinse treated area by slowly pouring water over the carpet as you work your hand back and forth to remove detergent.

If stains not involving a lot of water, if you do not have a carpet, follow these guidelines:

To remove solid materials with a spoon, spatula or dull knife to spreading the stain.

Blot spills with clean, white absorbent materials such as a cloth or paper towels. Press down hard to remove as much liquid as possible, but do not rub, which will cause lasting damage to the carpet.

If a spot removal solvent is necessary, apply several drops to a clean, white cloth and blot the carpet in an inconspicuous area to ensure it doesn't affect the color of your carpet. Use the solution sparingly. Consult a professional carpet cleaner if a color change occurs.

If one spot solution fails to work, try another one until the stain is removed.

Always rinse the area with water to remove as much detergent as possible. Incomplete removal of the detergent will cause dirt to stick to the carpet and the stains will return.

Absorb all of the moisture after rinsing. Leave a towel on the carpet under a weighted object overnight to ensure absorption of all of the water, again to prevent recurring stains.

For specific spot cleaning procedures for additional stains, con-

sult the Wear-Dated spot cleaning guide available at www.wear-dated.com.

Stain removal recipes

Think that catsup Billy spilled while eating a hamburger in front of the TV is there forever? Think again. The experts at Wear-Dated are here to help you get rid of even the toughest of stains.

The stain: blood, catsup, cheese, chocolate, coca, coffee syrup, mixed drinks, soft drinks, soy sauce, toothpaste, watercolor and white glue

Use: 1 tablespoon of clear household ammonia per 1 cup of water

The stain: beer, coffee, perfume, tea, wine

Use: 1/3 cup of white vinegar and 2/3 cup of water

The stain: egg, excrement, urine and vomit

Use: Ammonia solution above. If stain remains, moisten stained tufts with 3 percent hydrogen peroxide, and let stand one hour. Blot and repeat.

The stain: rust

Use: Saturate the spot with lemon juice. Let stand five minutes.

The Wear-Dated spot cleaning guide available at www.wear-dated.com.

Glossary of curtain terminology

METRO CREATIVE SERVICES

Have you ever gone shopping for curtains and become so overwhelmed at the numerous styles and choices available that you just didn't know where to begin?

The experts at Marburn Curtain Warehouse, a chain of home furnishings outlets in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania, have created a glossary of curtain terminology to end the confusion and make shopping for curtains easier than ever.

Balloon Curtain: Single-panel curtain which is adjusted by gathering vertical rows of rings to create a scalloped bottom.

Blinds: Window coverings made of horizontal or vertical slats that rotate for light and privacy control.

Button-Hole Curtains: Panels with evenly spaced button holes through which a rod is threaded.

Button-Hole Valance: Valances with evenly spaced button holes through which a rod is threaded.

Caf: Traversing or non-traversing drapery designed as a tier. Heading can be various styles. Can be set at a variety of heights to control ventilation, view and lighting.

Caf Rod: Small, round decorative rod used to mount caf curtains that don't have a rod pocket. They are meant to be seen and add an additional decorative touch to curtain treatment.

Cascade: Fall of fabric that descends in a zig-zag line from drapery heading or top treatment.

Center Draw: One pair of draperies which draws open and closes exactly at window's center point.

Center Support: Metal grip used to support traverse rod from above. Prevents rod from sagging in the middle, but doesn't interfere with rod operation.

Crescent Valance: Valance (taffeta or ruffled) shaped like a crescent.

Door Panel: Curtain panel with two rod pockets, one top and one bottom. Made to cover glass on door. Wider than sidelights (see definition at right).

Draw Draperies: Panels of fabric featuring pleated headings.

Droopy Tab Curtains: Tab-style curtain with tabs spaced widely, creating a soft fold or droopy effect when pushed back.

End Bracket: Two supporting metal grips which hold a drapery rod to wall or ceiling and control amount of projection.

Festoon: Decorative drapery treatment of folded fabric that hangs in a graceful curve and frames top of window.

Finial: Decorative end piece on caf rods or decorative traverse rods (also referred to as pole ends).

Insert Valance: Manufactured to fit between the pieces of a swag as an insert to cover a wider window; can also be used alone.

Jabot: Decorative vertical end of an over treatment that usually finishes a horizontal festoon.

Lace Panel: Openwork cloth with a design formed by a network of threads made by hand or on special lace machinery with bobbins, needles or hooks.

Layering: Mounting multiple treatments in same window; one treatment is usually functional, like a blind or shade, while others are used for decorative effect.

One-Piece Festoon: Top treatment for wide windows which drapes over curtain rod, creating graceful curves.

One-Piece Swag: Window covering consisting of seamless curtain with rod pocket and straight sides on outside and softly curved inside, creating an open airy look.

One-Way Draw: Drapery designed to draw one way in one panel.

Panel: Expanse of fabric hung directly on a rod, opened and closed by simply pushing or traversing the fabric from side to side.

Pinch Pleat: Drapery heading where basic pleat is divided into two or three smaller, equal pleats, sewn together at bottom edge on right side of fabric.

Pinch Pleat Curtains: Identified by pleated fabric at top of curtain (there is no rod pocket). Also called draperies, they are attached to a traverse rod or pole rod with rings by using drapery hooks.

Pin-On Hook: Metal pin to fasten draperies to rod; pins into drapery pleat and hooks to traverse carrier or caf rod.

Puff Valance: Simple rod pocket valance which can be hung like traditional tailored valance or puffed (puffed), gently softening its appearance.

Ruffled Cascade: Top treatment that can be draped over swag holders, holdbacks or over length of rod (finials hold up fabric). Rectangle of fabric with ruffles attached to three sides.

Ruffled Curtains (also called Cape Cod or Priscillas): Classic ruffle that's found on two or three edges of curtain. Mostly used with matching valance and tiebacks.

Sash Curtain: Any sheer material hung close to window glass; usually hung from spring tension rods or sash rods mounted inside window casing.

Sash Rod: Small rod, either decorative or plain, usually mounted inside window frame on sash.

Scalloped Valance: Top treatment featuring a semi-circular bottom.

Scarf: Top treatment that can be draped over swag holders,

hold-backs or over length of rod, or threaded through sconces.

Shades: Window coverings made of material that rolls, gathers or folds both up and down. Can be raised for light and view and lowered for privacy.

Sidelight: Curtain panel with two rod pockets, one top and one bottom. Designed to cover sidelights which are narrow windows at sides of doors.

Stationary Balloon Valance: Valance with scalloped bottom, similar in appearance to a balloon curtain.

Swag: Draped one-piece fabric valance that falls gracefully from top of window, swooping downward direction.

Swag Set: Window covering consisting of left and right panel. Some sets include a festoon.

Tab Curtains: Known by tabs (plain, button, tie-tabs, droopy) positioned on upper edge of curtain. Tabs look best when used with a wood or decorator rod since rod will be exposed through the tabs. Rod should be mounted high enough so window or glass is not visible above top edge of curtain.

Tailored Curtains: Named for their clean lines, they can be found plain or with trimmings. Used alone or with coordinating valance, they can hang straight or be tied back.

Tapered Valance: Top treatment whose sides gradually come to a point at the center.

Tiebacks: Decorative pieces of hardware (sometimes called holdbacks) designed to hold curtains or draperies back from window to allow light passage or to add an additional decorative touch to window treatment.

Tie-Tab Valance: Top treatment with ties at top which allow you to tie them onto rod as tightly or as loosely as desired. Controlling the length creates a more casual look.

Tie-Up Curtain: Tailored panel gathered softly from the bottom by using ribbons or straps.

Tiers (also called privacy tiers or cafs): Typically hang by a tension or caf rod at midway point of a window to cover only lower half.

Top Treatments: Decorative treatments mounted above window, including cornices and valances.

Valance: Top treatment used over curtains or tiers on their own rod. Sometimes used alone on a door or small window. They are described by their shape or function (tailored, ruffled, tab, tapered, crescent, insert, etc.).

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Hardwoods give you the freedom to mix and match

METRO CREATIVE SERVICES

Concerned about which American hardwood to choose? Think you have to select just one so that the floors, furniture, cabinets and moldings all "match"?

Relax, say the experts at the Hardwood Information Center. Don't be afraid to blend different but complementary hardwoods and stains.

"Everything matching' is a mistake; it's not fashionable," says New York kitchen designer Florence Perchuk.

Match woods in trim, floors and cabinetry? "Not! Forget about matching! What's important is the relationship," says Patricia Hart McMillan, author of "Decorating for Dummies" (Wiley). A room with three or four warm woods is far more visually inviting than the matchy look.

For example, it's important to consider the role you want your hardwood floor to play. A light floor will set off dark furniture beautifully or vice versa; the higher the contrast, the greater the impact.

To get acquainted with the possibilities, visit www.hardwoodinfo.com to see 22 American hardwoods in natural, light, medium and dark finishes.

And don't forget that hardwoods are a naturally soothing counterpoint to the starkness of home electronics. Designer John Buscarello says, "Flat-screen TVs are very big, cold, flat things; surrounding wood softens the high-tech items."

Remember: interplays of hue, pattern and texture are the keys



METRO CREATIVE SERVICES

WHETHER IT'S FOR STORAGE or display, hardwood built-ins are attractive and practical. These maple shelves complement the mixed hardwood floor — ash, cherry, maple, red and white oak, poplar and walnut

to successful interior design. You'll never cover every piece of furniture in the same pattern and fabric.

Why repeat one wood on every surface?

Here are five easy ways to express yourself with American hardwoods:

- Add semi-custom cabinets throughout the house for extra storage that will organize, simplify and de-stress your life.
- Feature hardwood moldings

along the ceiling. Simple crown moldings begin around \$3/foot; carved at \$22/foot.

Splurge with coffered beams (\$8,000 to \$12,000 for a 12 x 14 room) or halve that cost with plain beams.

- Go for that maple counter-

top: dents, burns and nicks are easily repaired and you'll never know they happened.

- Make any room more luxurious with classic hardwood blinds or shutters.

- Accent the dining room with chair rails or wainscoting.

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Slow-cooker tips for both expert and novice

BY KATHIE JENKINS
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

I did have a couple of failures, but none so bad it couldn't be salvaged.

Here are a few suggestions:

Unless you have a large family, a 3½- to 4-quart model should be sufficient.

To save money, pick up one at a thrift store for about \$5.

Mine has only two settings (high and low) and a removable crock liner, which is easy to clean.

Trim excess fat from meat before cooking.

Fat will melt during the long cooking and add unpleasant, greasy texture to the finished dish.

Brown meat before adding it to the cooker.

It doesn't take that much extra time and makes a world of difference in flavor.

I've tried various pans, and the one that browns the best and quickest is a good old-fashioned cast-iron skillet.

Fill the crockpot one-half to three-quarters full.

If the level is lower, the food will cook too quickly; if higher, the food will not get hot enough quick enough.

Presoak dried beans for

faster cooking.

If you convert your recipes for the slow cooker, about half the recommended amount of liquid, since it won't evaporate the way it does in stove-top cooking.

One hour on high is about 90 minutes on low.

Vegetables don't cook quickly as meat, so add vegetables first.

Hamburger and ground meat should be browned in a skillet before being added to the slow cooker.

Precook rice and add it to the final cooker.

Same is true for quiche, or any dish containing cheese or fresh herbs.

Don't lift the lid to check on the food.

It breaks the seal around the rim and interferes with the sealing time — each period about 20 minutes longer.

Stir soups and stews before serving.

I don't recommend fish.

If you do make any fish, add it during the last 15 minutes of cooking time so it won't overcook and turn rubbery.

Don't use a slow cooker to reheat cold food.